

15

# Domestic Girlfriend

K E I S A S U G A

D O M E X C I R L



# Domestic Girlfriend

15

D O M E  
G I R L

KEI SASUGA



# DOMESTIC GIRL

15

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CHAPTER 135: CHALLENGE RESULTS

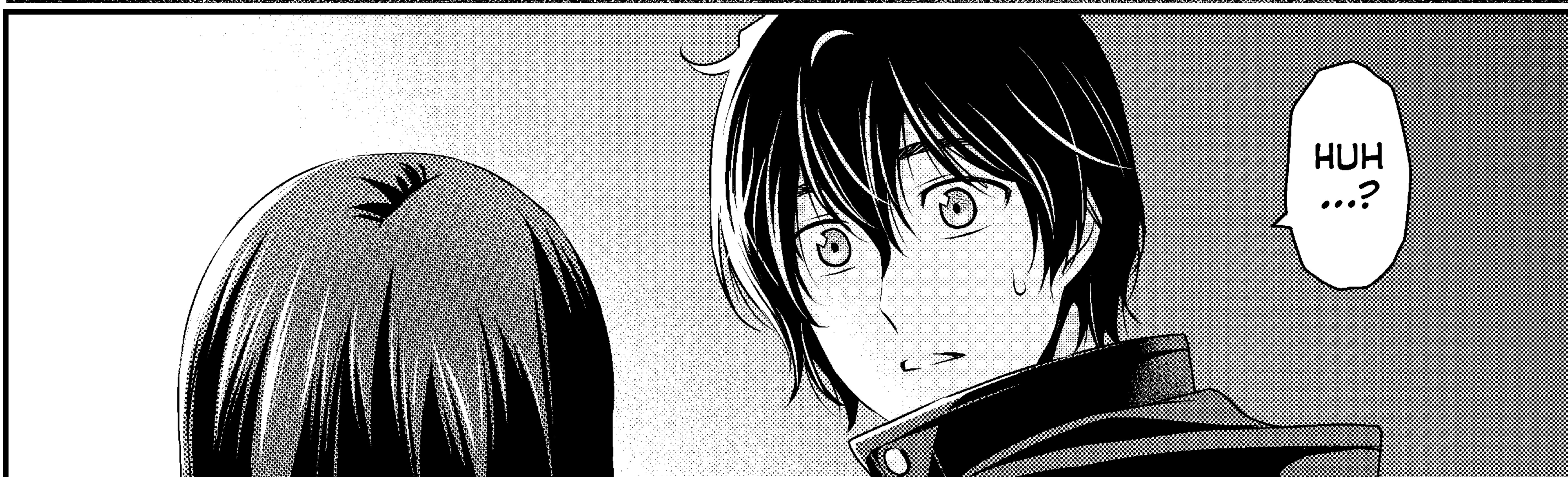




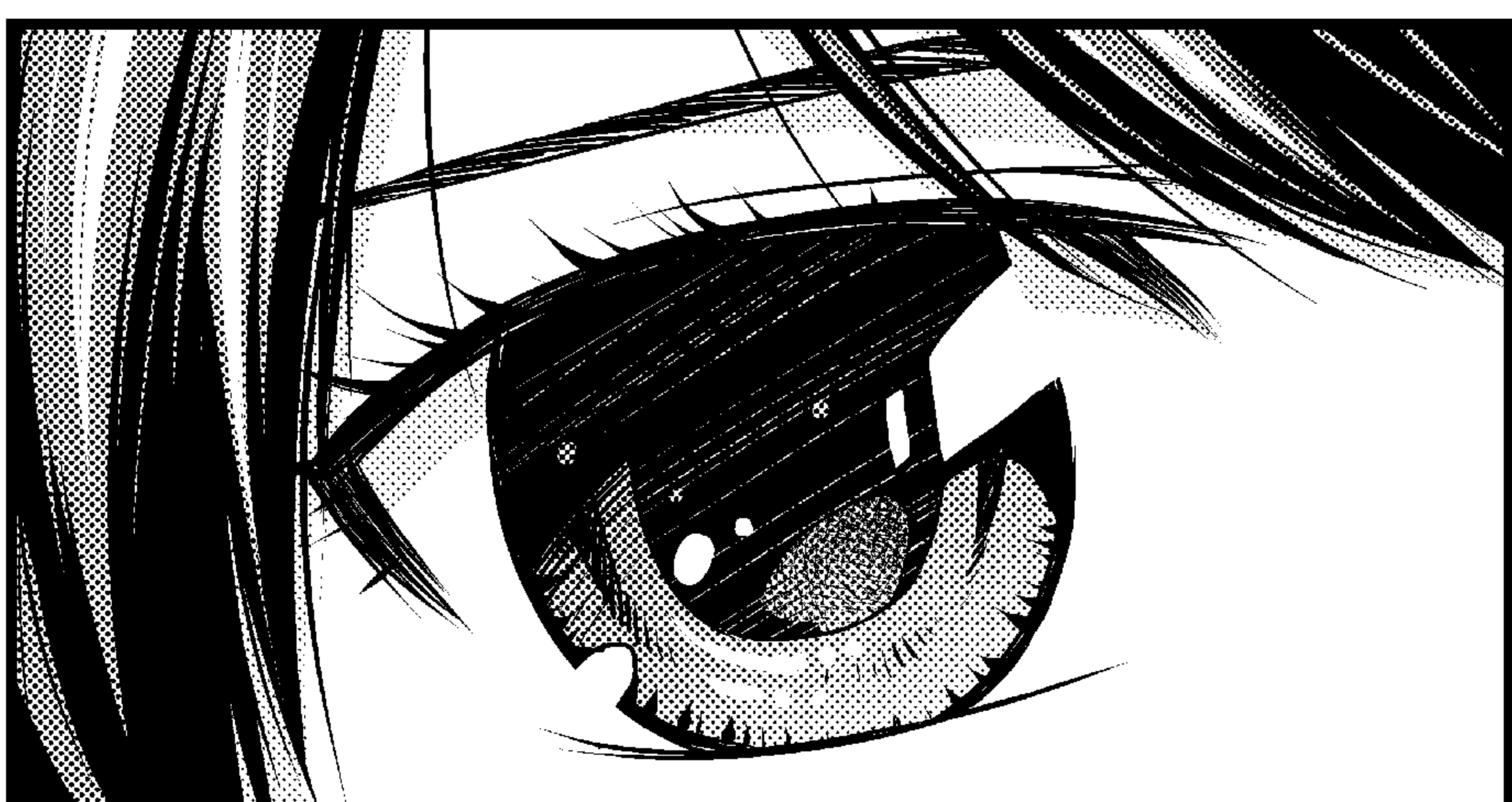


...I  
WANT  
TO LIVE  
WITH  
YOU?

WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU DO  
IF I SAID  
...



HUH  
...?



HONESTLY,  
IT'D MAKE  
ME HAPPY,

AND  
I'D BE  
ALL  
FOR  
IT...

W-  
WELL,







I JUST FELT LIKE SAYING IT.

I KNOW IT ISN'T REALISTIC.

I WAS GETTING ALL SORTS OF IDEAS IN MY HEAD.

AW, C'MON.

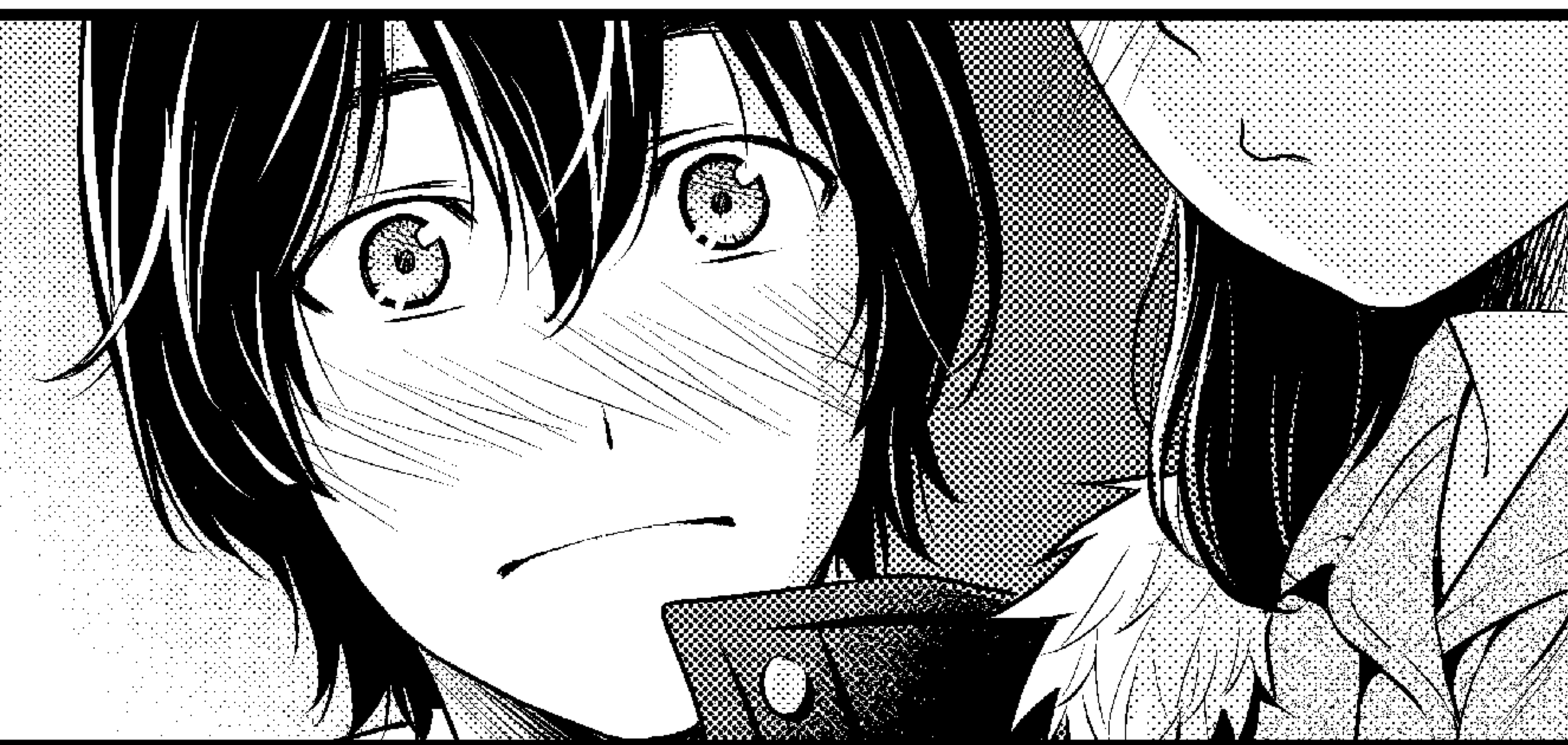


BUT,

....!

WE'D DEFINITELY GET FOUND OUT IF WE DID THAT.

WHAT THEN ?



PULL



THINKING ABOUT HOW CUTE YOU ARE,

NAH, I WAS JUST...

WHAT, TRYING TO BUTTER ME UP?

AND HOW I REALLY WANT YOU TO COME OVER ON WEEKENDS.

JEEZ ...



JUST KNOW THAT,

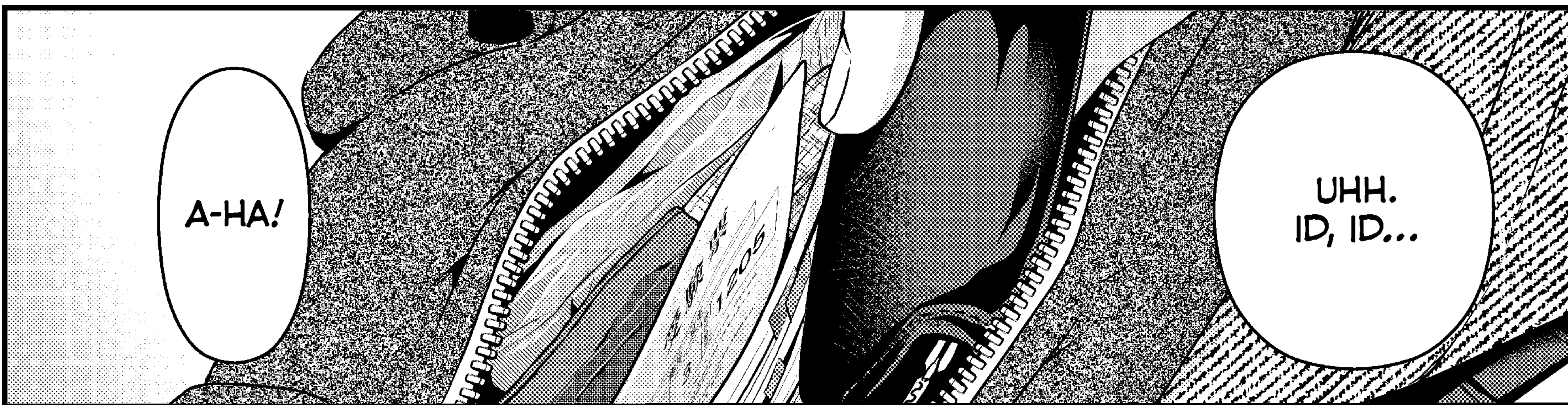
AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHO THOUGHT WE'D GET TO LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN IN SPRING,

I'M SAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE LEAVING TO MAKE ME WANT TO GO WITH YOU!





MARCH



A-HA!

UHH.  
ID, ID...



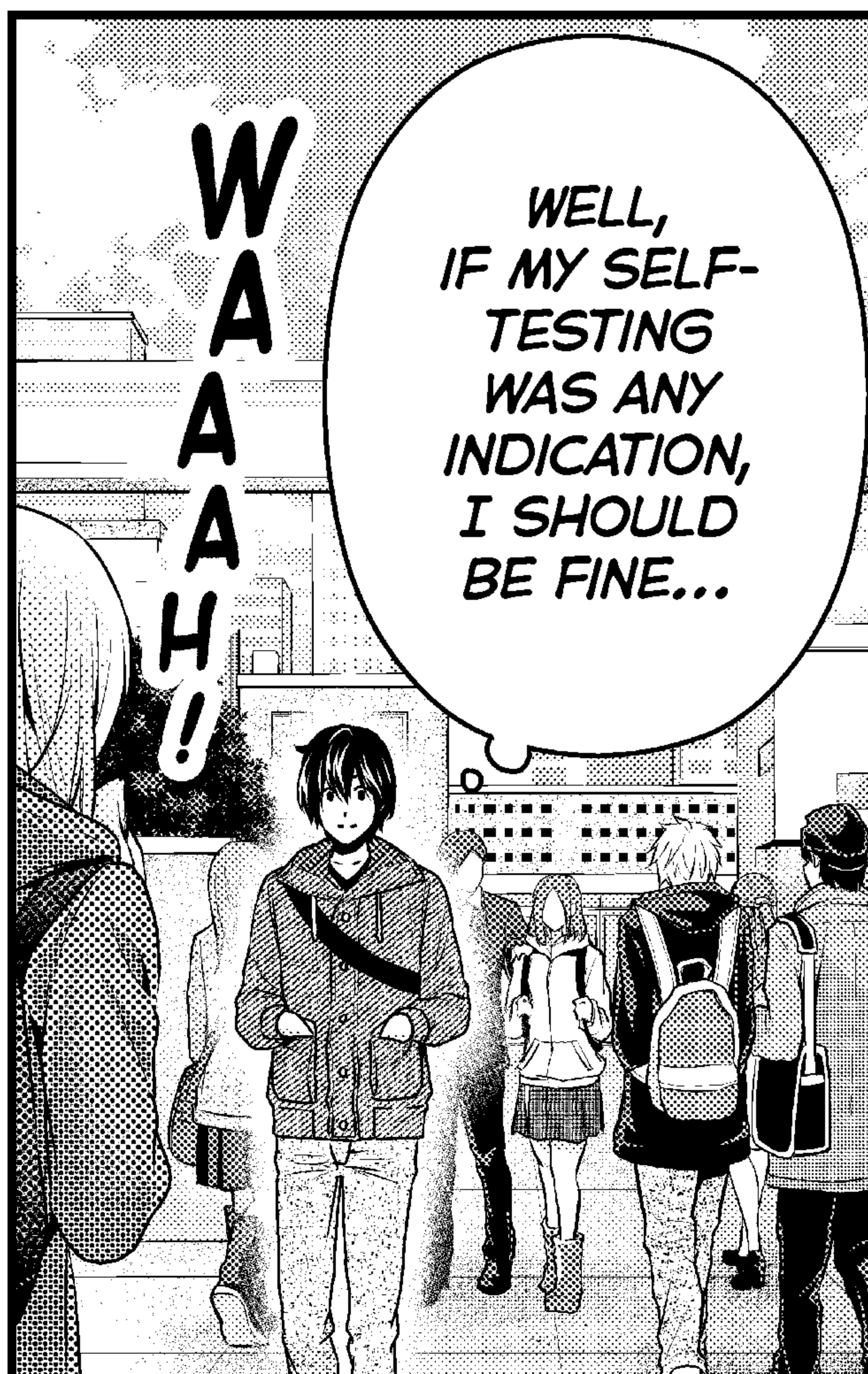
TEXT ME  
AS SOON  
AS YOU  
FIND OUT,  
OKAY?!

I REALLY  
WANNA GO  
WITH YOU,  
BUT I HAVE  
WORK...



...  
DON'T  
CRY,  
DEAR.  
YOU DID  
YOUR  
BEST.

I REALLY WANTED  
TO GO HERE...



W  
A  
A  
H!

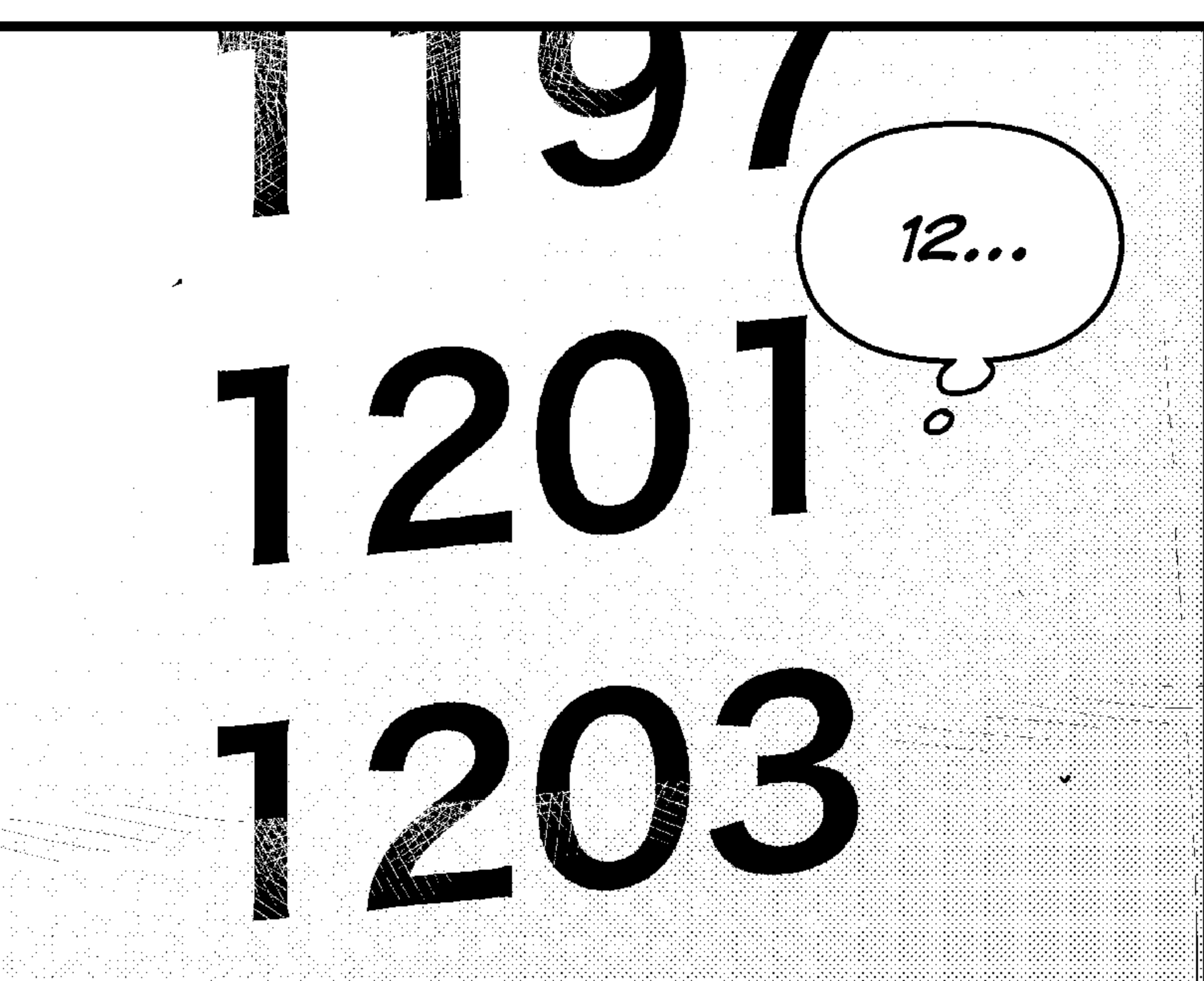
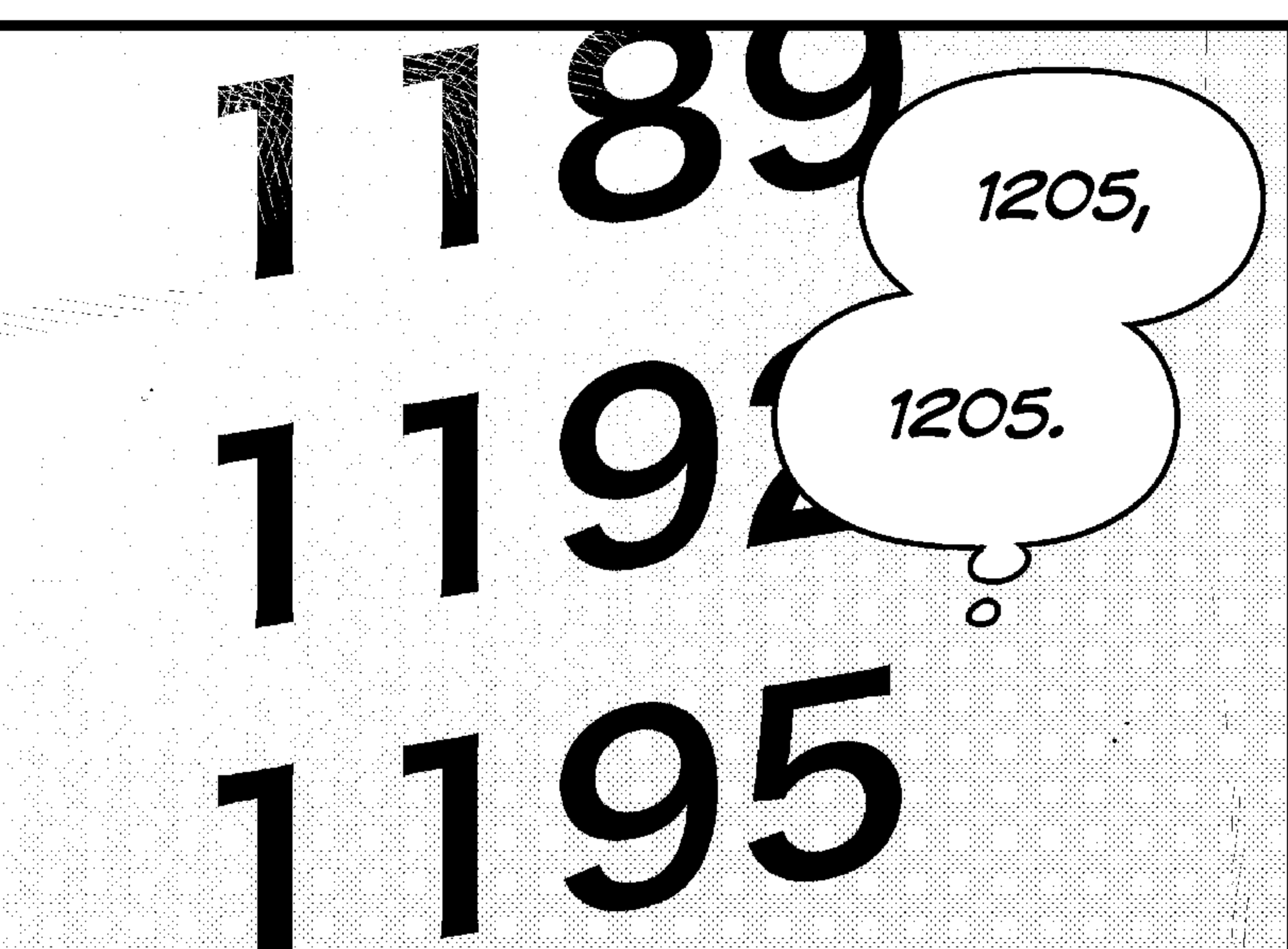
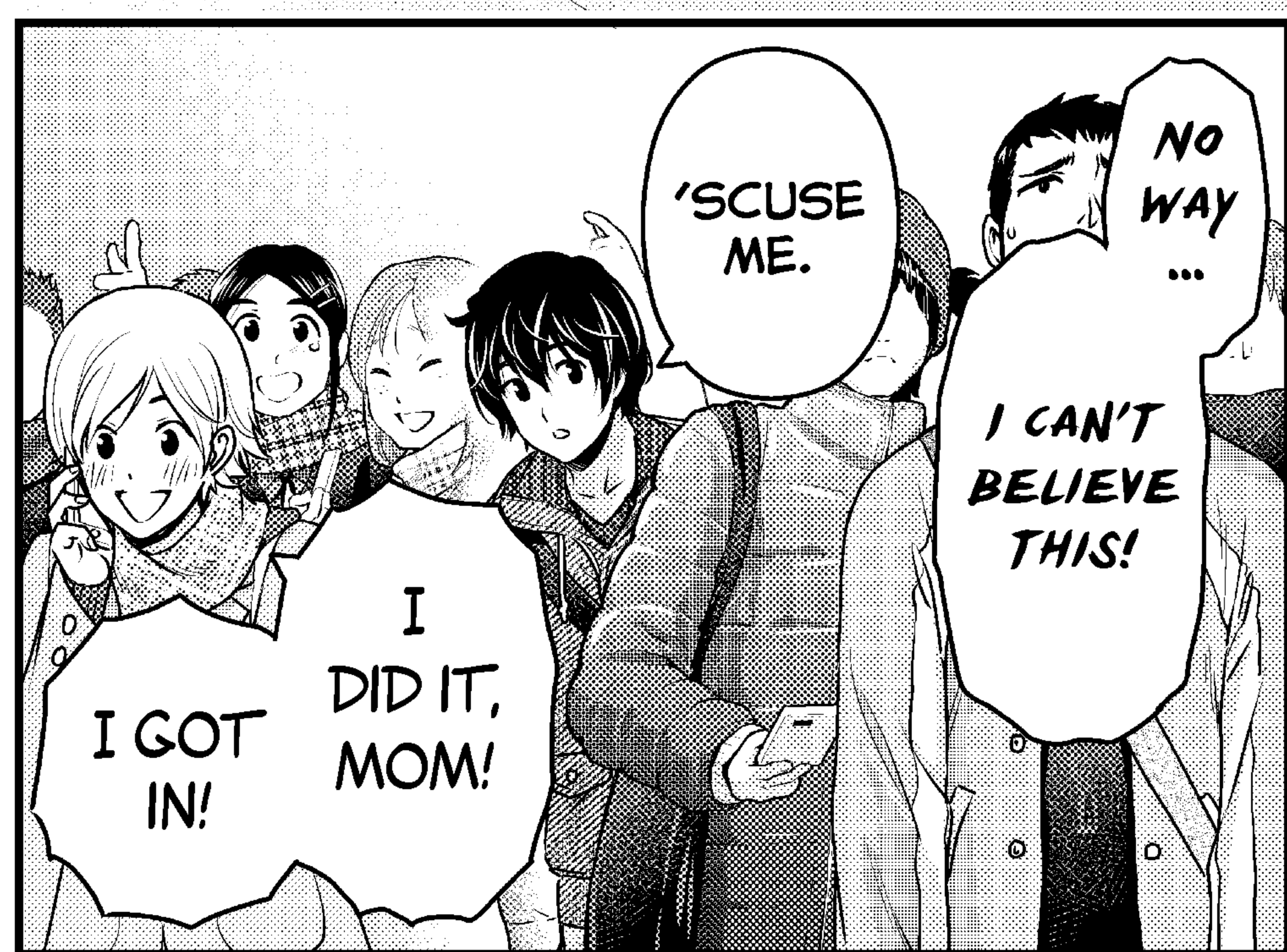
WELL,  
IF MY SELF-  
TESTING  
WAS ANY  
INDICATION,  
I SHOULD  
BE FINE...



IS MY  
PHONE  
CHARGED  
?

GREAT.



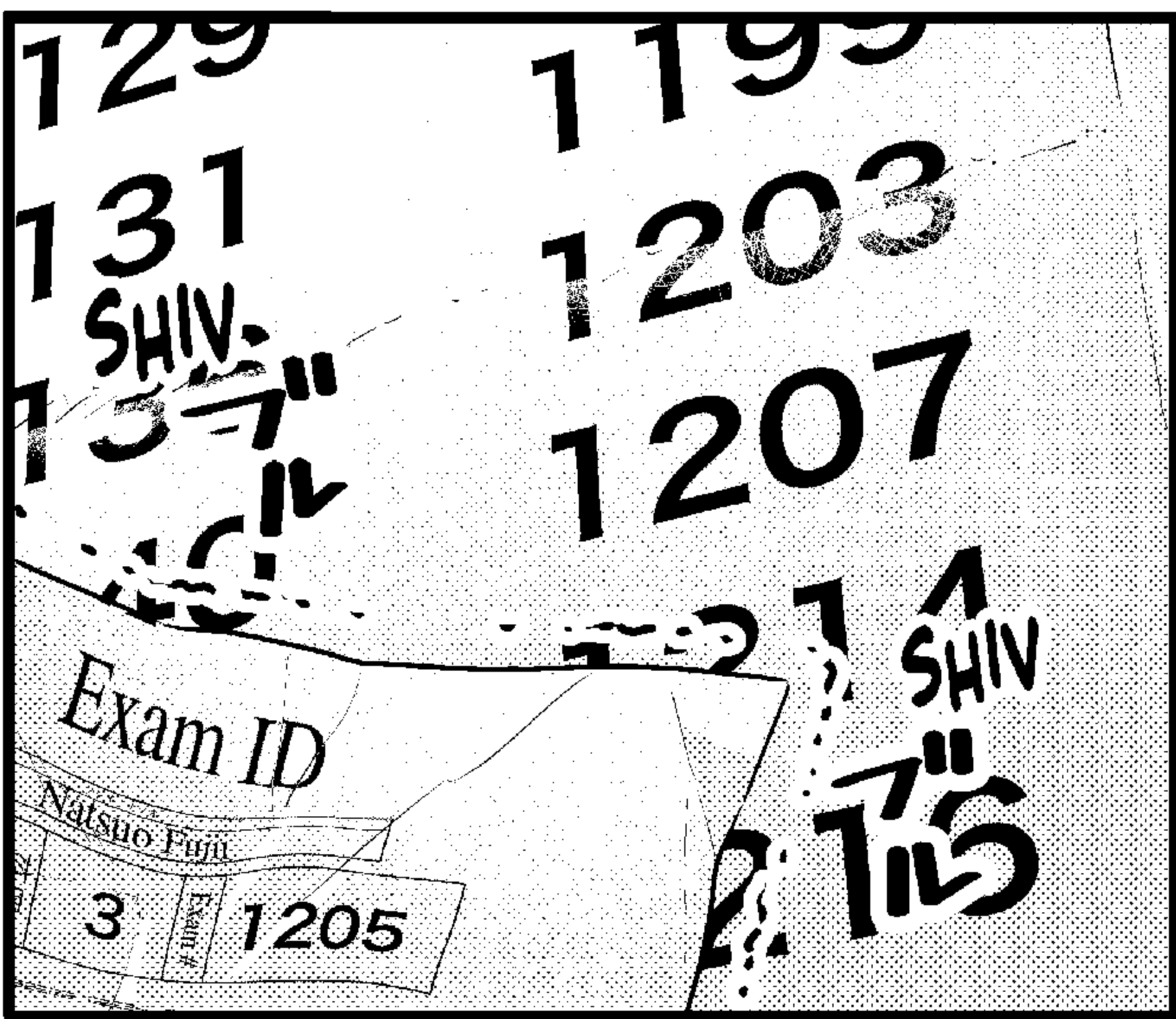




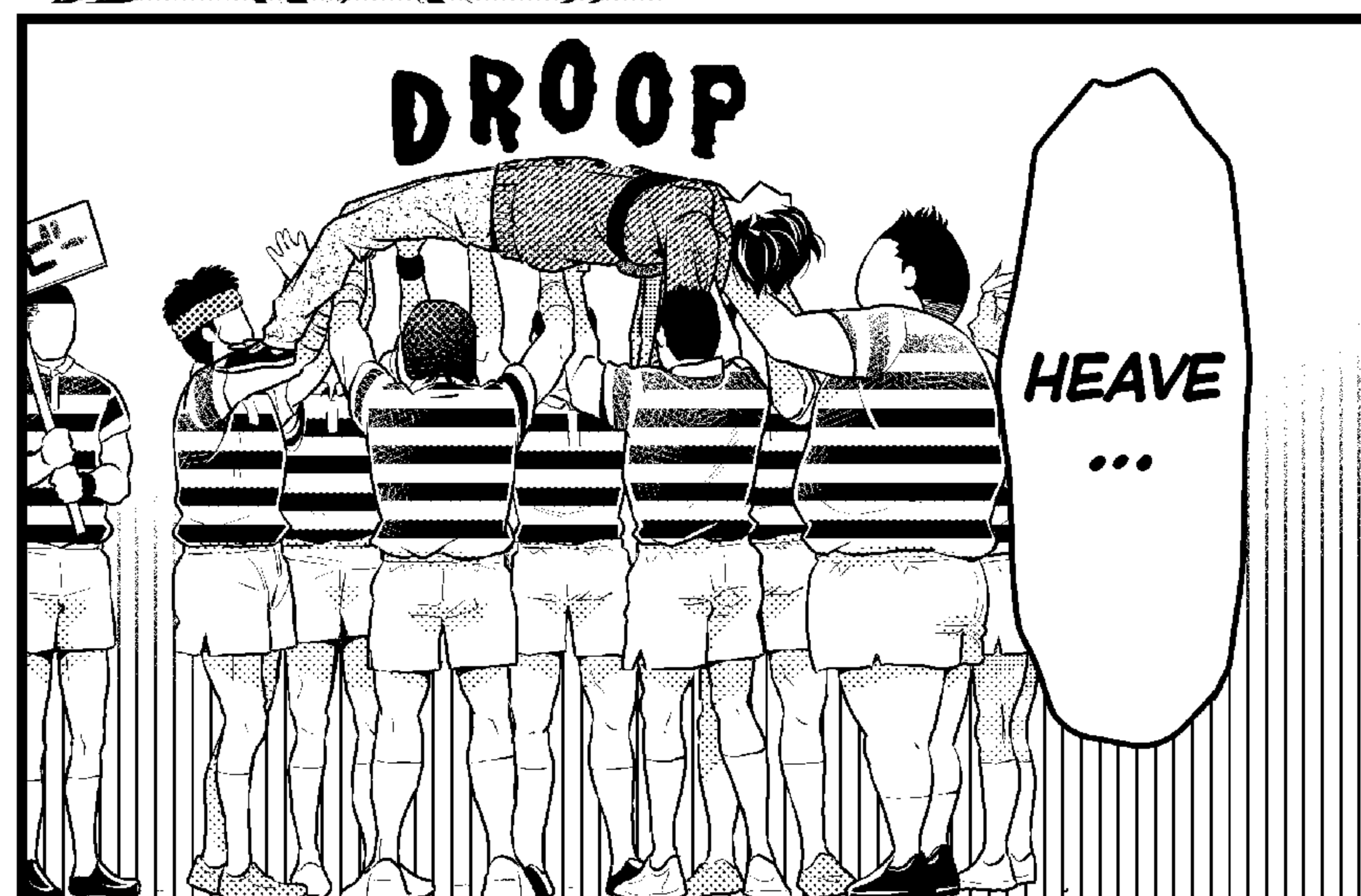


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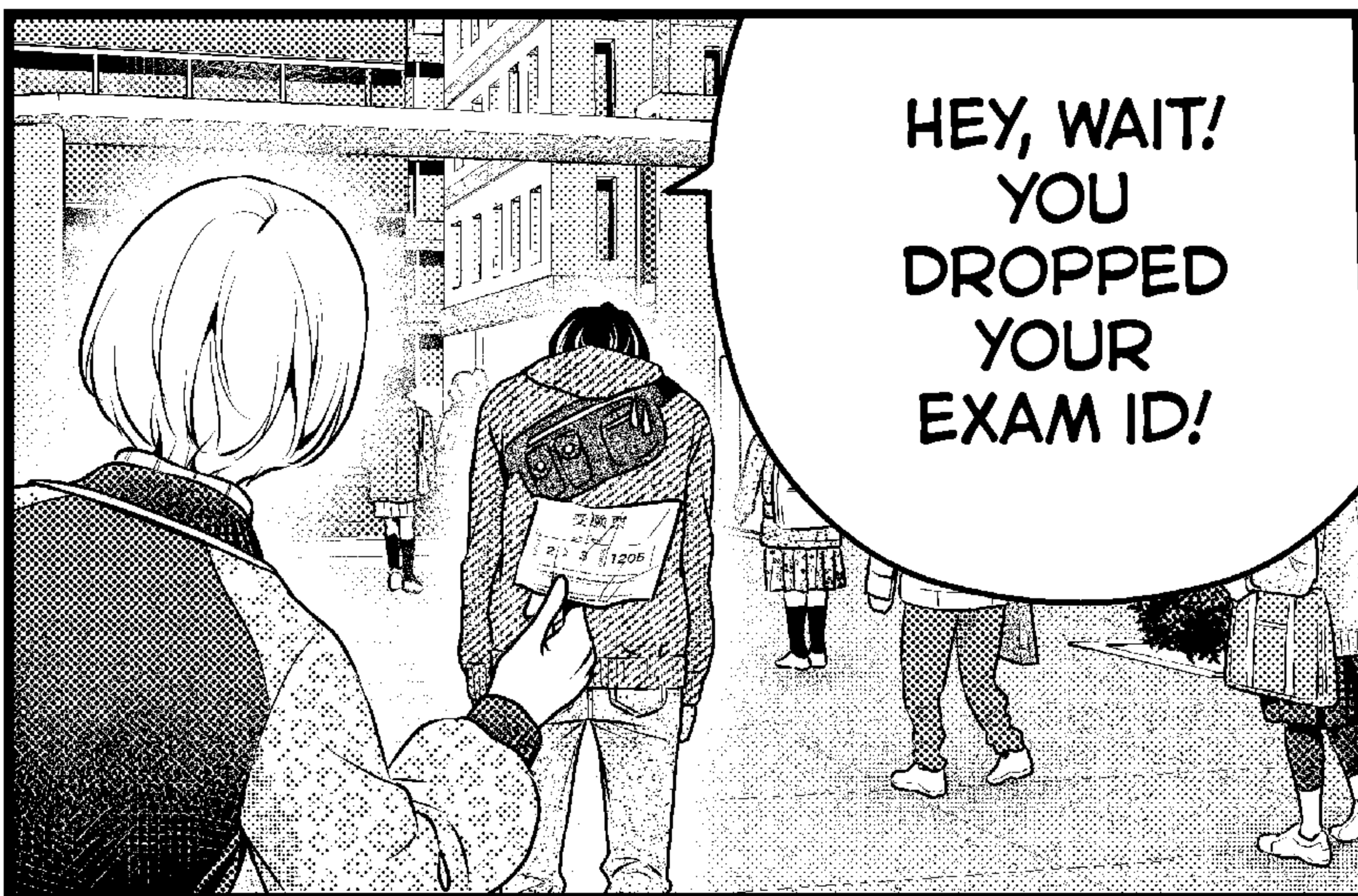
1207



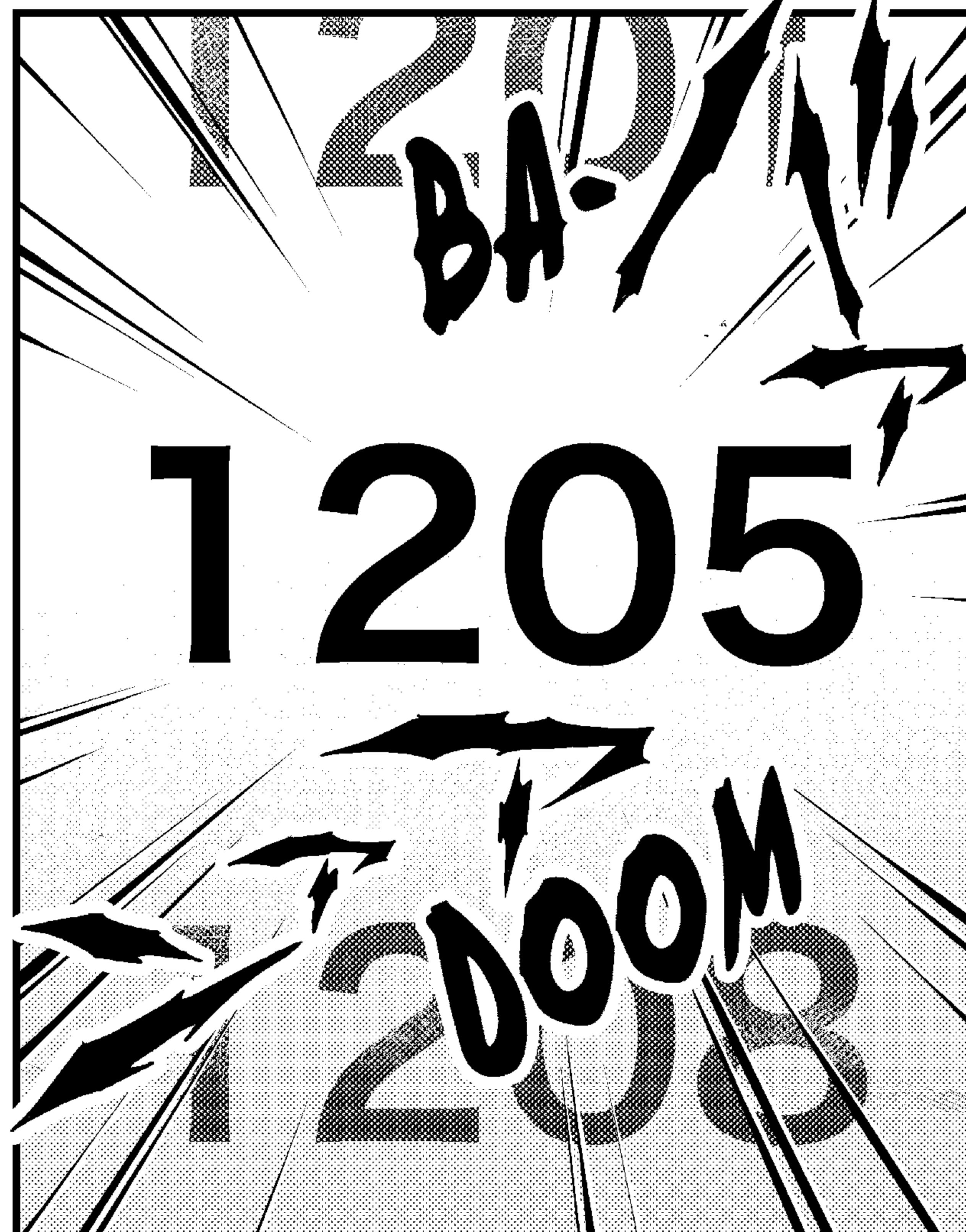
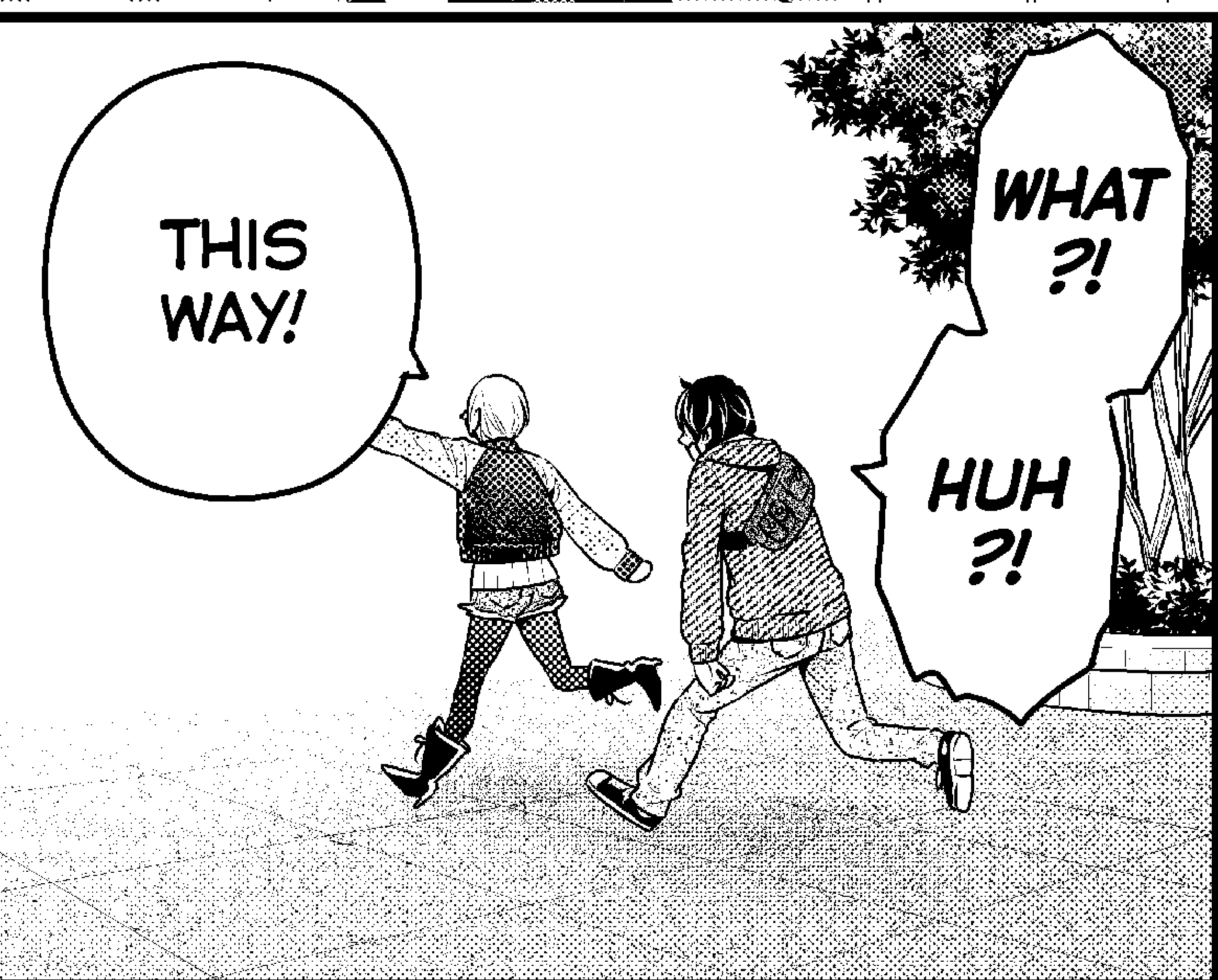
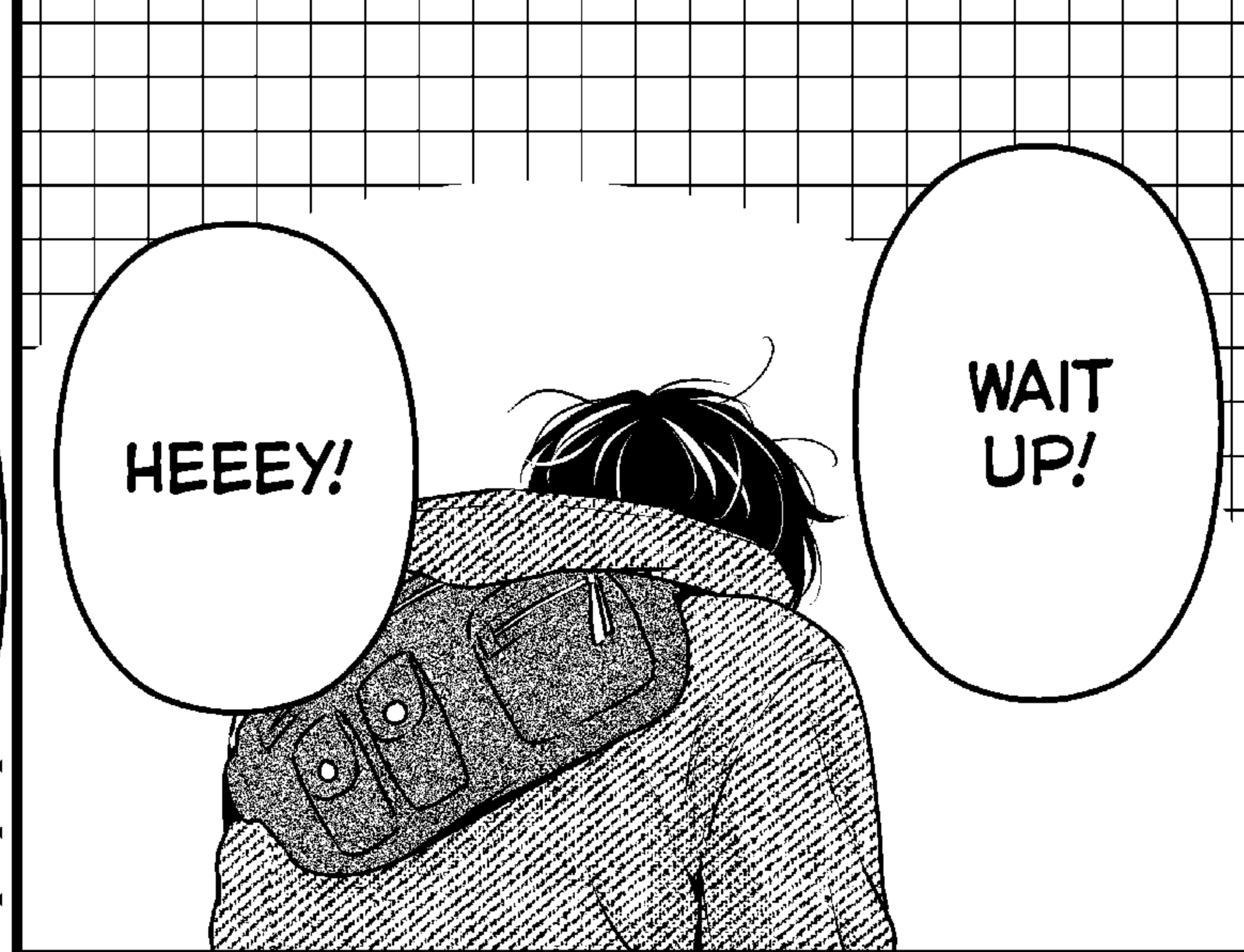
















THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!  
NOW I CAN  
GIVE MY  
FAMILY GOOD  
NEWS...

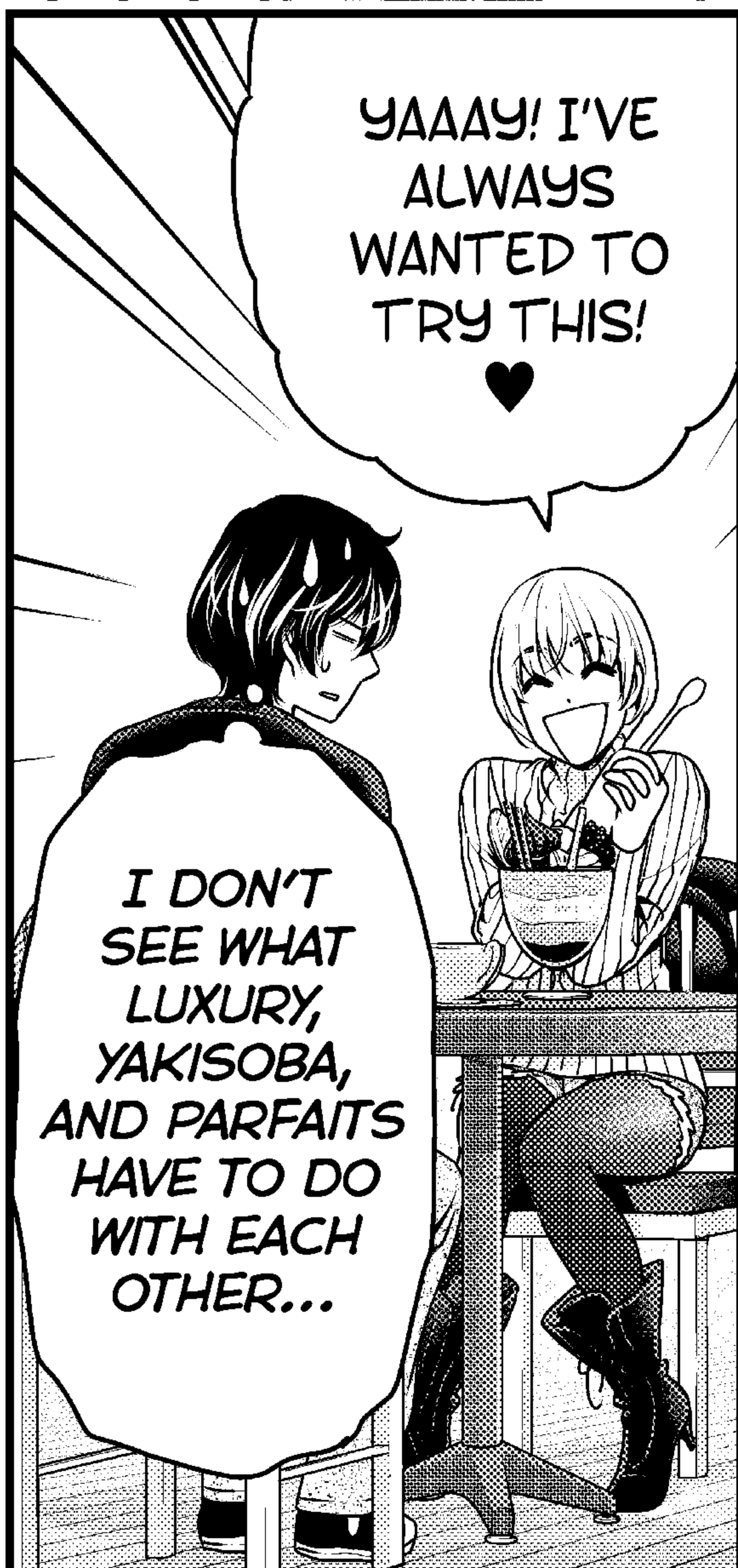


I THINK  
YOU'RE  
EXPECT-  
ING TOO  
MUCH  
FROM  
COLLEGE.

NOW THE  
SPECTACULAR  
CAMPUS  
LIFE FULL OF  
FREEDOM AND  
WONDER I  
DREAMED OF  
CAN BECOME  
A REALITY...!



HUH  
...?



YAAAA! I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
TRY THIS!  
♥

I DON'T  
SEE WHAT  
LUXURY,  
YAKISOBA,  
AND PARFAITS  
HAVE TO DO  
WITH EACH  
OTHER...



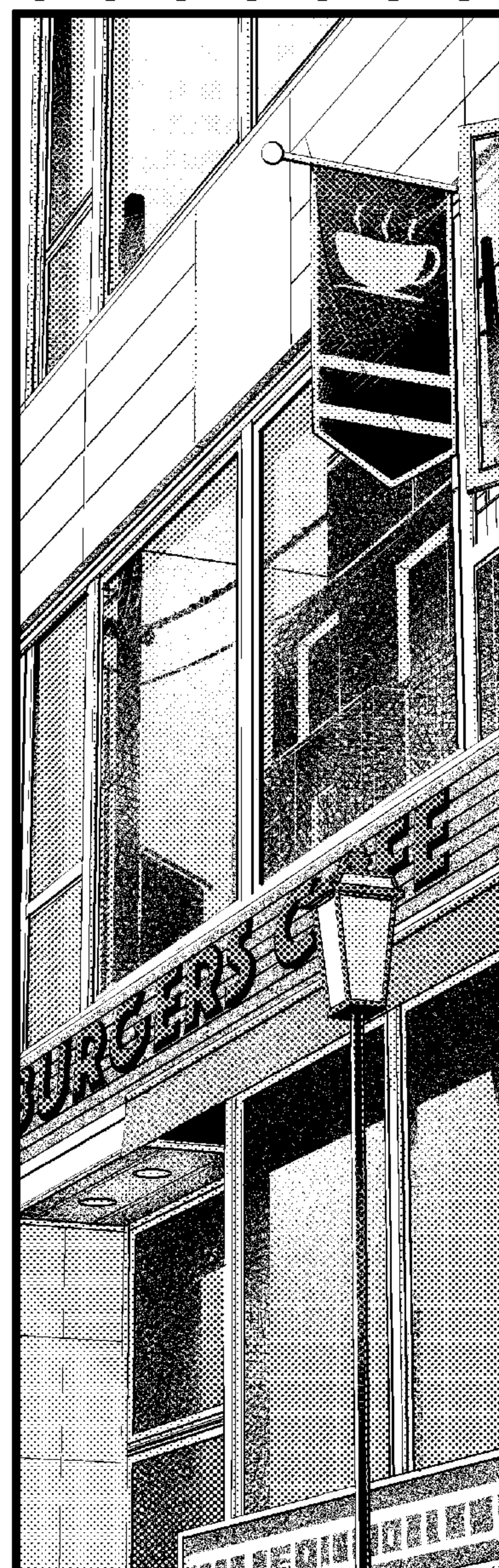
THIS IS  
OUR LUXURY  
YAKISOBA  
PARFAIT,

LIMITED  
TO FIVE  
PER DAY!

THANK  
YOU FOR  
WAITING!

3,500 YEN\*

\*APPROX. 35 USD.



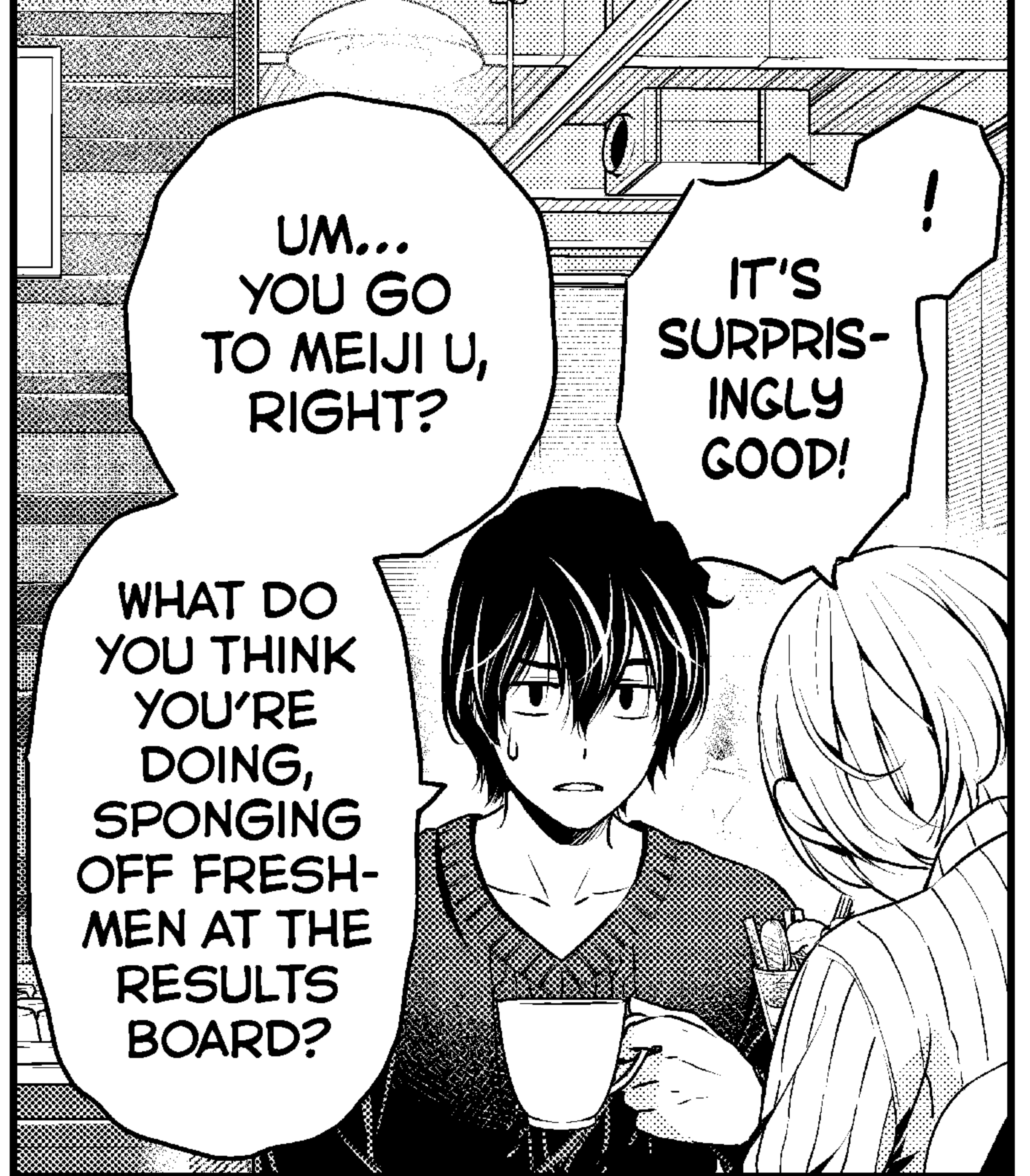




WE'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU INSISTED ON REPAYING ME FOR MY KINDNESS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SPONGING ?!

YOU LIE LIKE A PRO, TOO.



UM... YOU GO TO MEIJI U, RIGHT?

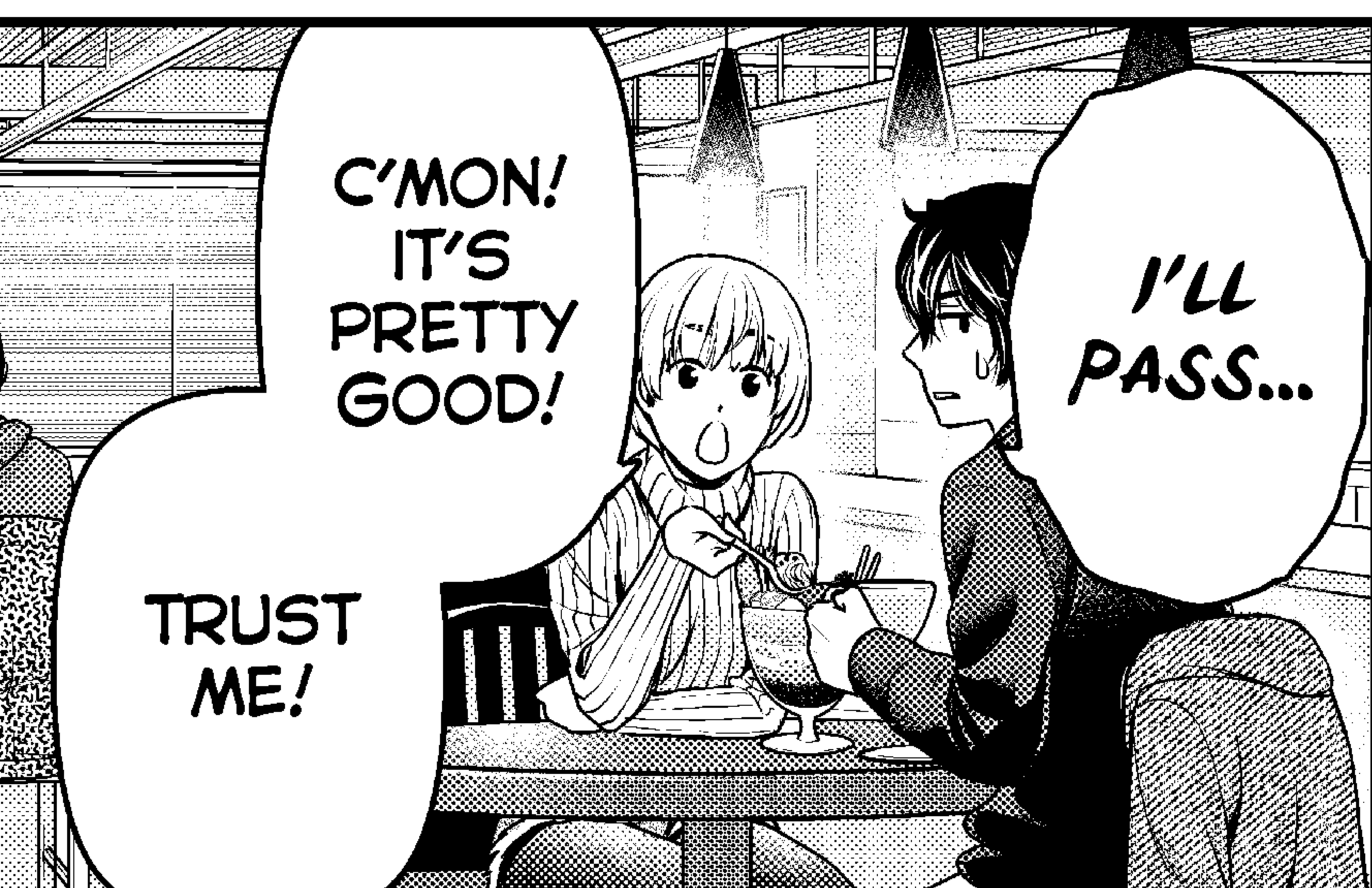
IT'S SURPRISINGLY GOOD!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SPONGING OFF FRESHMEN AT THE RESULTS BOARD?



WE'RE GOING TO BE SCHOOLMATES FROM NOW ON, SO JUST THINK OF IT AS A TOKEN OF OUR FUTURE FRIENDSHIP.

NOW, NOW.



C'MON! IT'S PRETTY GOOD!

TRUST ME!

I'LL PASS...



AHH...



OKAY ?

AHH.



OPEN UP.

AHH.





ARE YOU A VIRGIN?

YOU WERE BLUSH-ING!

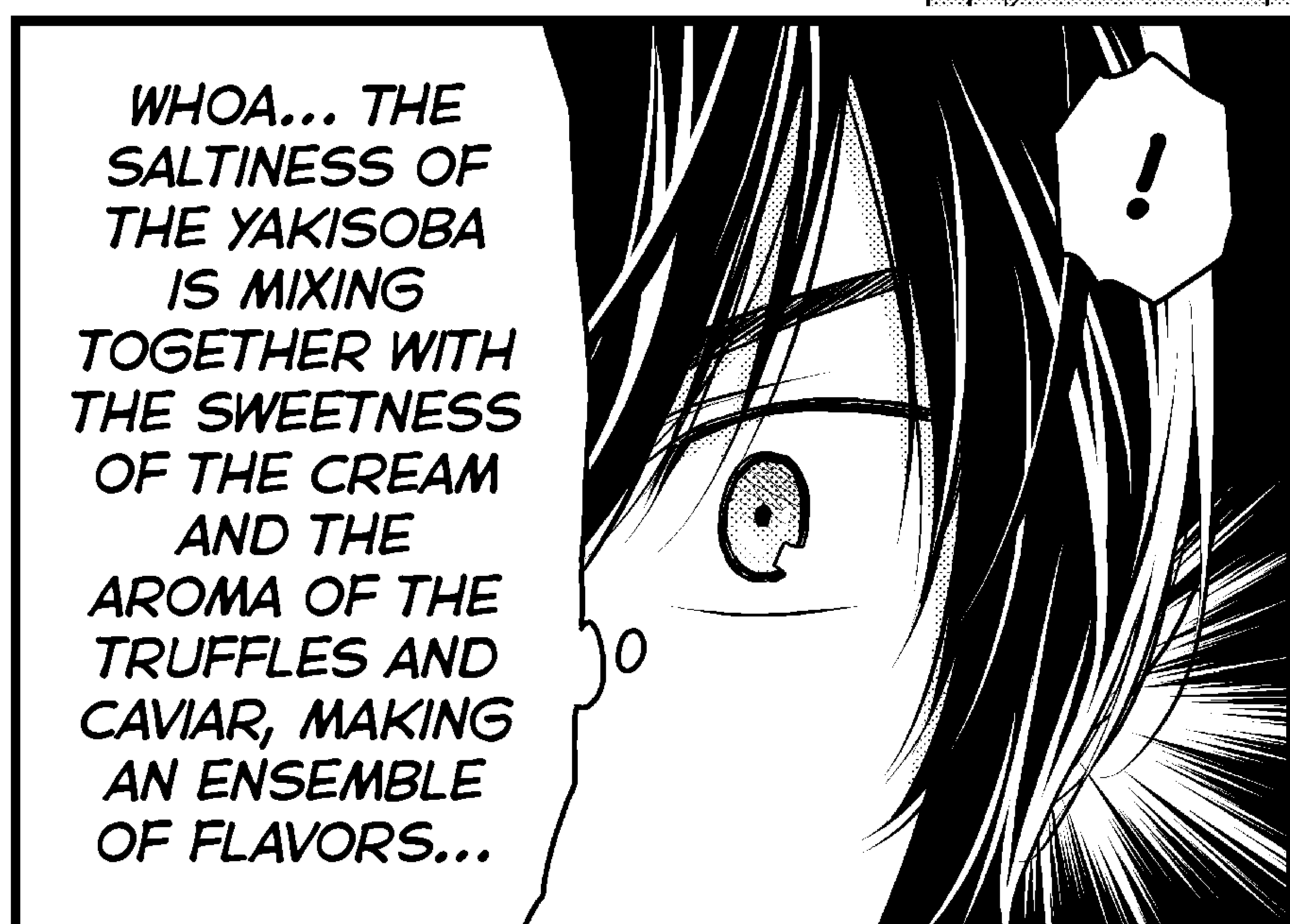
AH, HA, HA!

NO.



SHWIP  
よい

ほろ  
NOM



WHOA... THE SALTINESS OF THE YAKISOBA IS MIXING TOGETHER WITH THE SWEETNESS OF THE CREAM AND THE AROMA OF THE TRUFFLES AND CAVIAR, MAKING AN ENSEMBLE OF FLAVORS...



MRG.

HERE.

SORRY, SORRY. DON'T GET MAD.



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M MAO KINASHI. I'LL BE A SECOND-YEAR BUSINESS MAJOR THIS SPRING!

OH, YEAH. WE NEVER INTRODUCED OURSELVES.

NATSUO FUJII. I'M JOINING THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.



NOM  
ほろ

NOM  
ほろ

IT TASTES LIKE SHIIT!





I SEE.

CLUBS?  
HONESTLY,  
I HAD MY  
HANDS FULL  
WITH PASSING,  
SO I HAVEN'T  
THOUGHT  
THAT FAR  
AHEAD YET.



NAA-KUN  
RIGHT OFF  
THE BAT,  
HUH?

SAY,  
NAA-KUN.  
HAVE YOU  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT WHAT  
CLUBS YOU  
MIGHT WANT  
TO JOIN?



YOU'RE  
REALLY  
STUCK ON  
ME BEING  
A VIRGIN,  
HUH?

...TEND TO FALL  
INTO THE TRAP  
OF JOINING A  
CLUB THAT'S ALL  
ABOUT PICKING  
UP GIRLS AND  
END UP TURNING  
INTO TRY-HARD  
PLAYERS,  
Y'KNOW?

DORKY  
GUYS WHO  
REEK OF  
VIRGINITY  
LIKE YOU...



NOT IN  
COLLEGE.

THAT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.



BESIDES,  
I HAVE A  
GIRL-  
FRIEND.

I DON'T  
PLAN TO  
SLEEP  
AROUND  
IN  
COLLEGE.





DO YOU  
HAVE ANY  
HOBBIES?  
ANYTHING  
YOU'RE  
INTERESTED  
IN?



SHE  
NEVER  
STOPS  
...

IT'S  
ALL  
OVER  
YOUR  
FACE!

WHAT,  
DID YOU  
GET EXCITED  
THINKING  
THERE WERE  
ORGIES  
ALL OVER  
CAMPUS  
OR SOME-  
THING?

JUUUST  
KIDDING.

Oh my  
gosh!



HUH  
...?

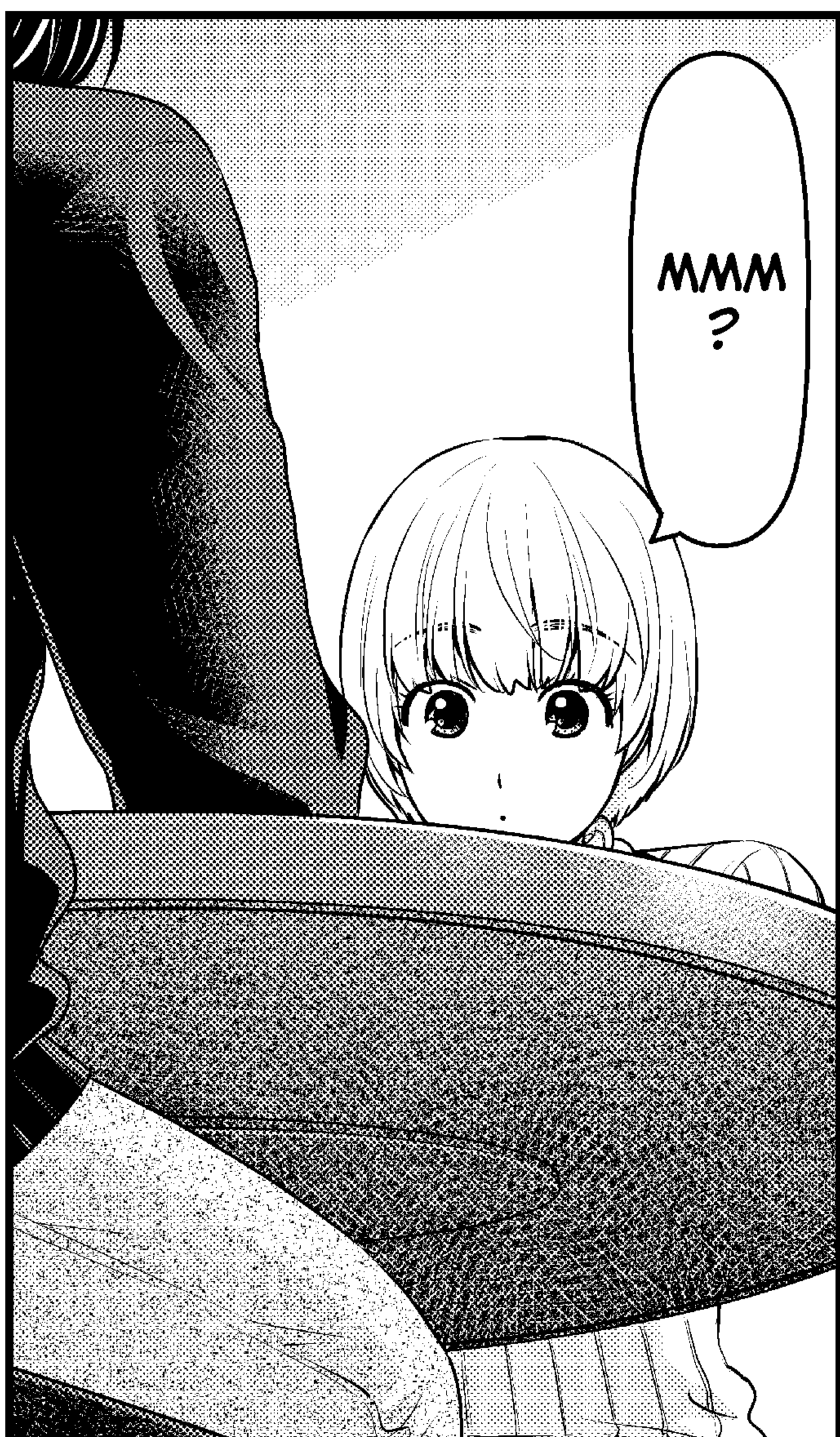


HMM  
...



...BUT  
I LIKE  
READING  
AND  
WRITING.

WELL, I  
DUNNO IF  
I'D CALL IT  
A HOBBY...



MMM  
?



...



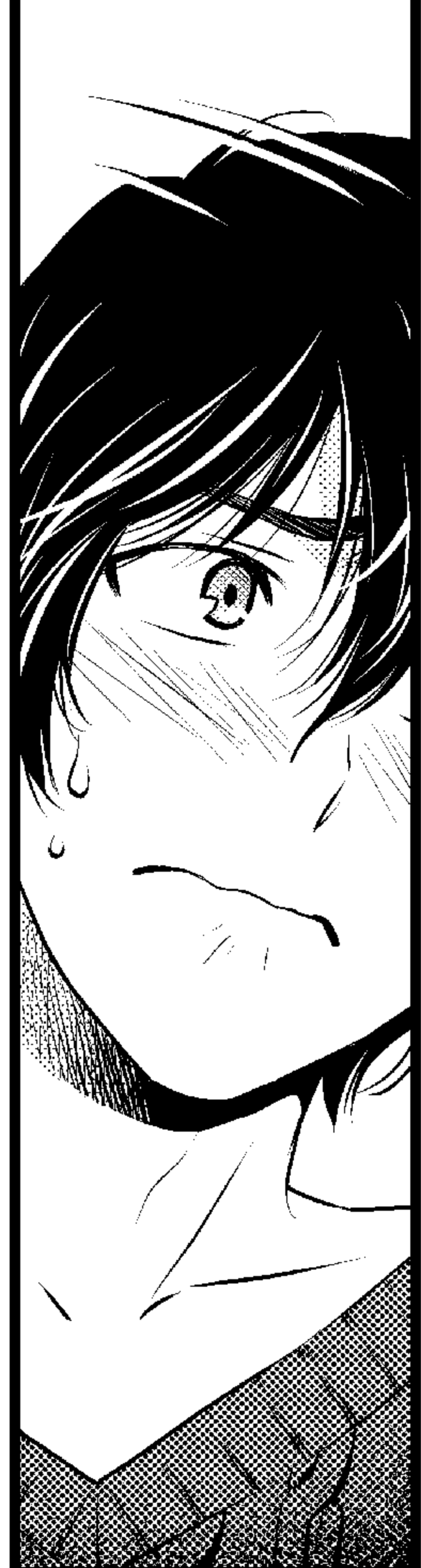
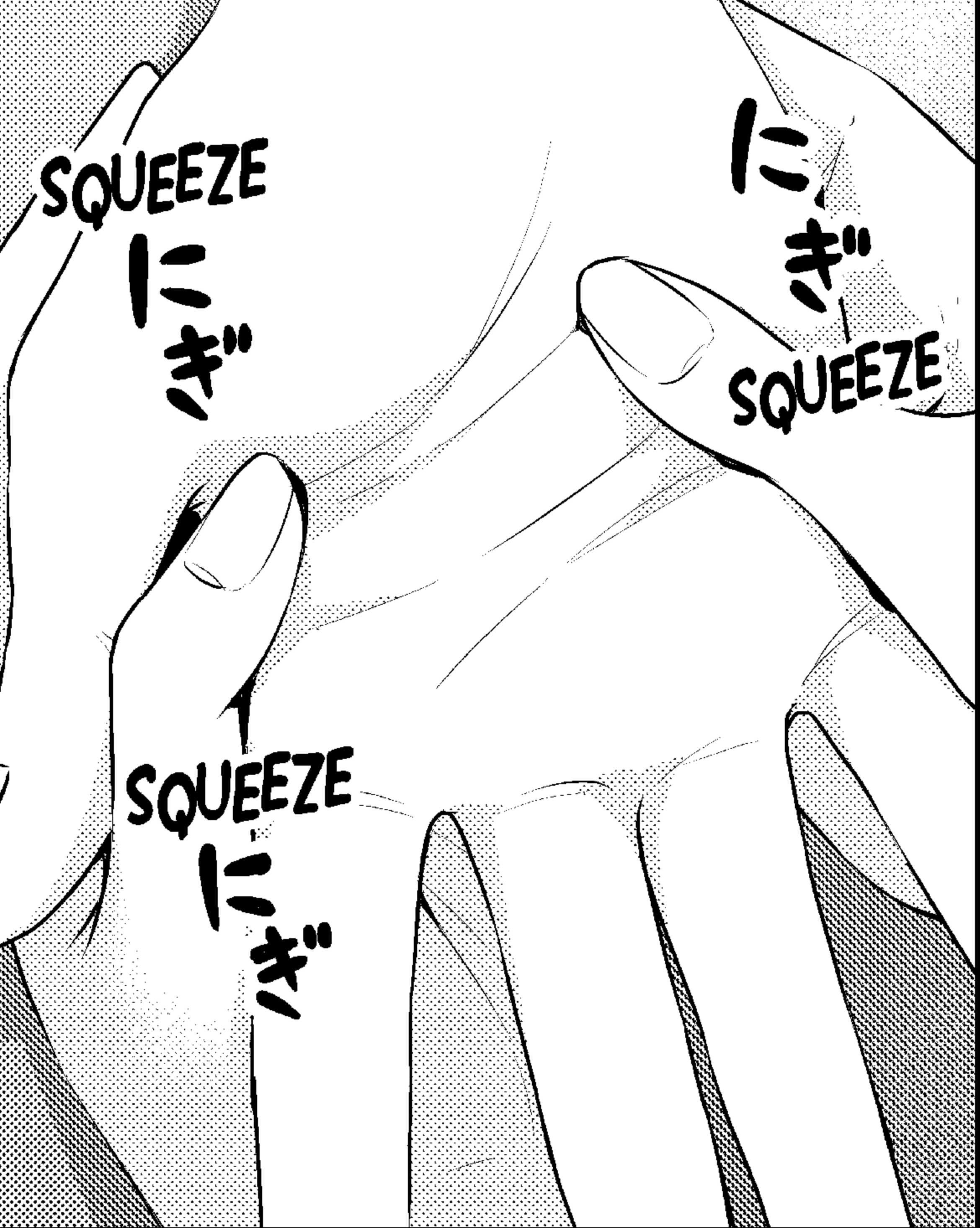
LET ME  
SEE YOUR  
HANDS.  
I'LL READ  
YOUR  
FUTURE.

I KNOW!  
I CAN  
ACTUALLY  
READ  
PALMS!

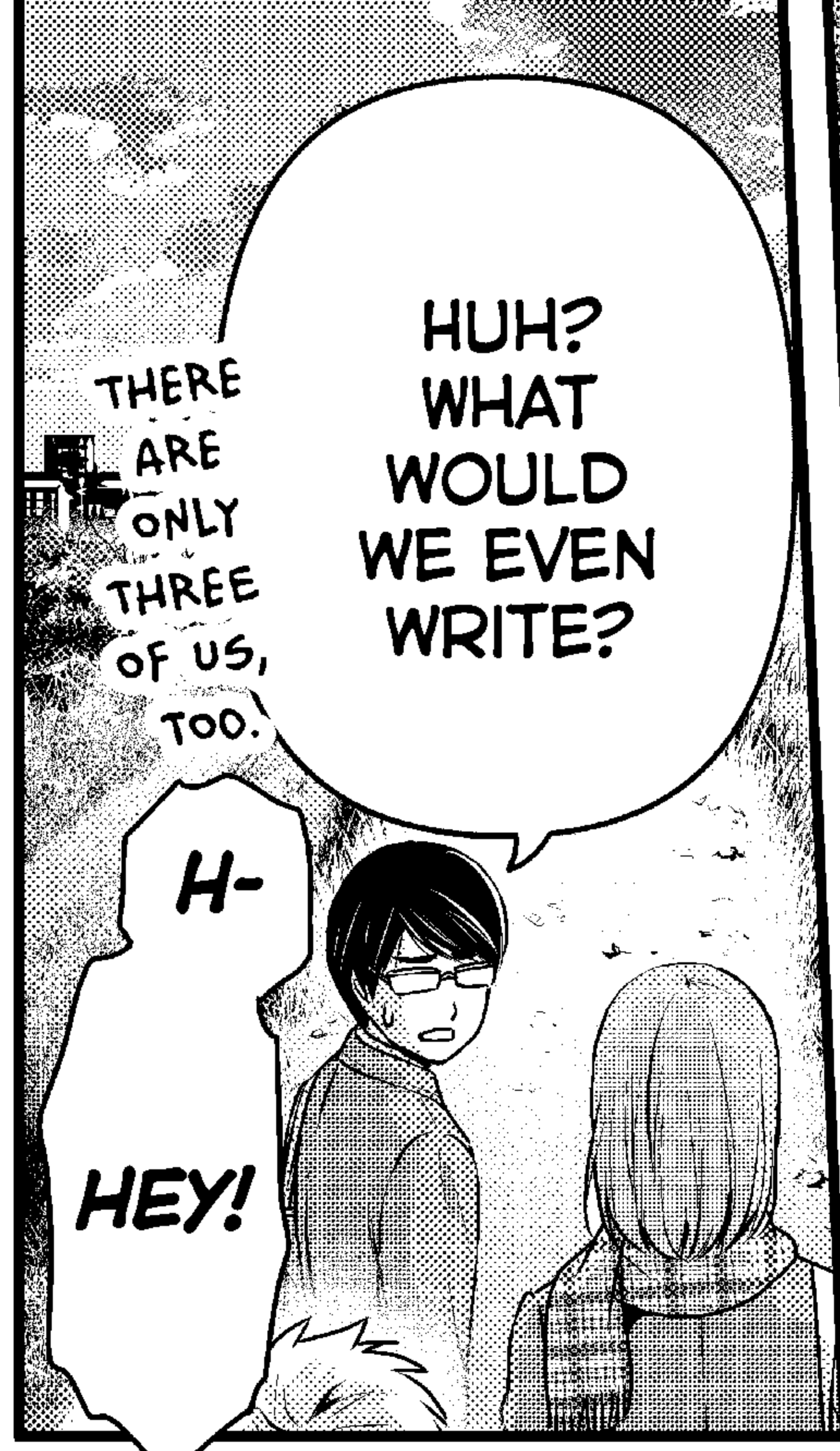
ER...

U-M-Z-...









THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF US, TOO.

HUH? WHAT WOULD WE EVEN WRITE?

H-

HEY!



I...I WANNA TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING ...

...SO I DON'T CHICKEN OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE.

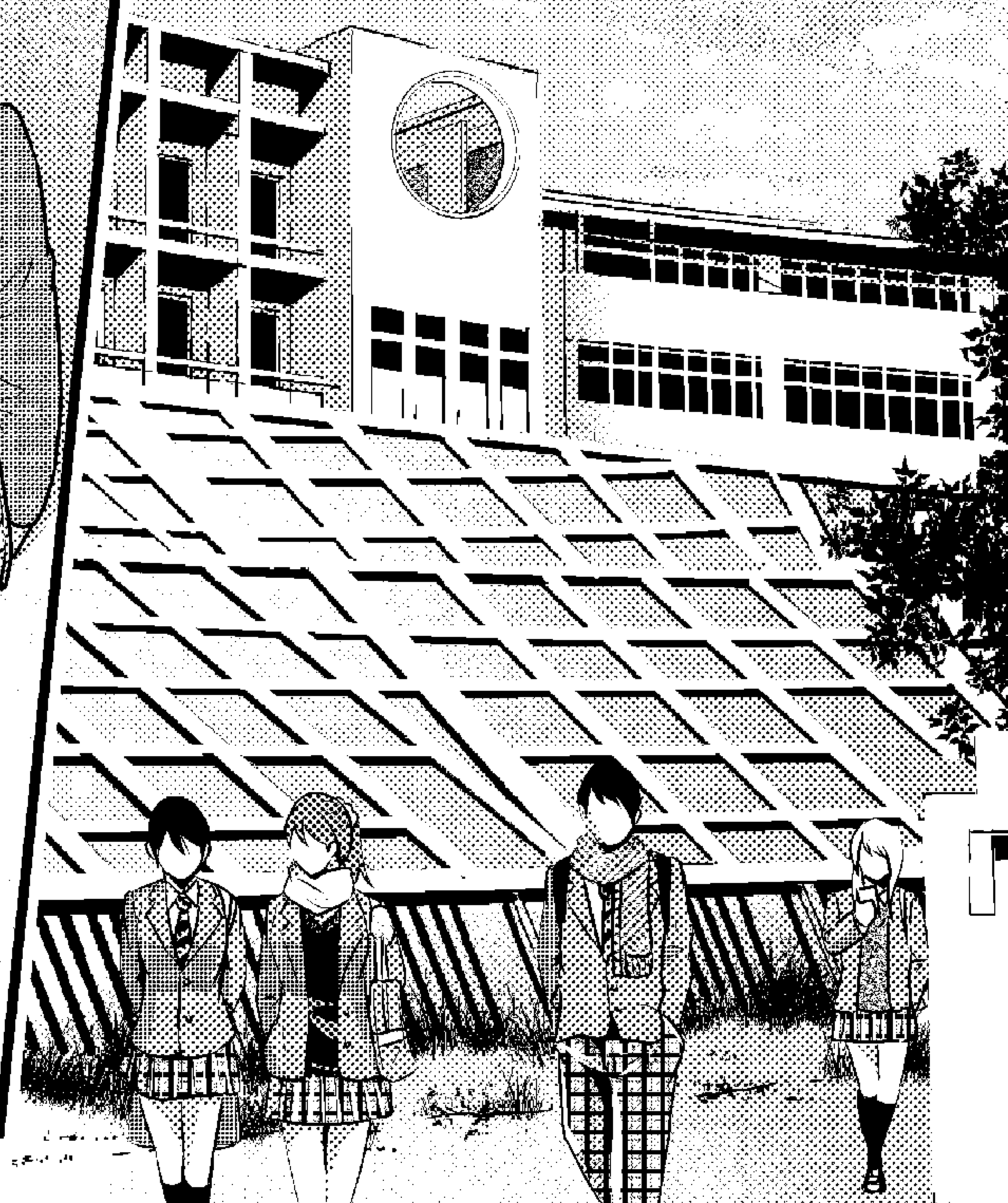


AREN'T BOUQUETS STANDARD?

WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE TO THE UPPER-CLASSMEN AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?

YEAH, BUT THAT FEELS KINDA LACKING ...

WHAT ABOUT A THANK-YOU CARD?

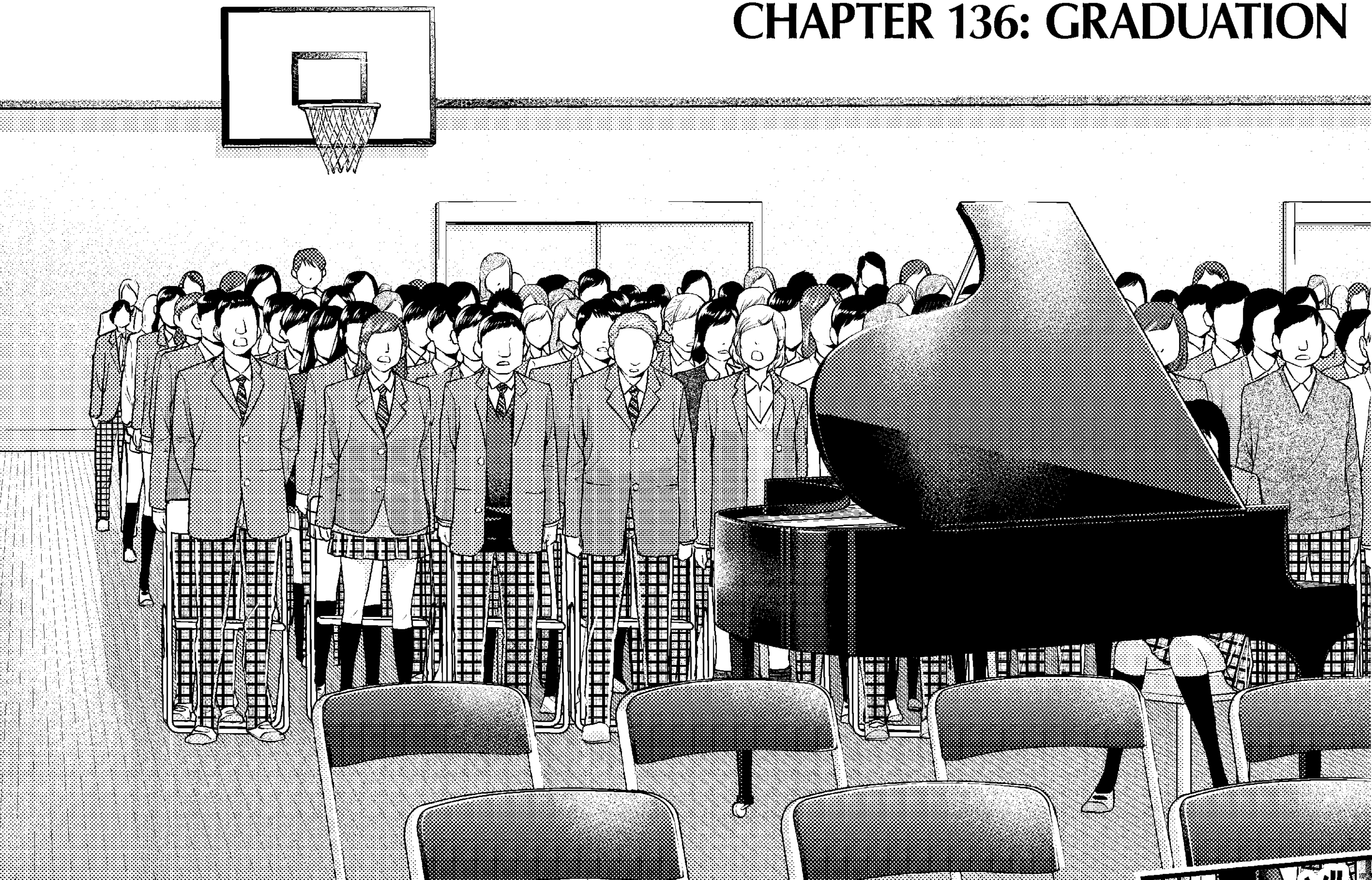


...TO CONFESS TO MOMO-SEMPAI!

I'M GOING ...



# CHAPTER 136: GRADUATION



IF ONLY SPRING BREAK STARTED RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY, HUH?



MAN, CHOIR PRACTICE SUCKS.

DO WE REALLY HAVE TO PRACTICE FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?



WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP FROM REHEARSAL?

BARUSU...!  
CAN I BORROW YOU AFTER SCHOOL FOR A BIT?!

IT STILL BEATS CLASS.





S-  
SORRY  
...

I WORRY  
ABOUT  
TOMORROW  
IF YOU'RE  
ALREADY  
THIS  
NERVOUS...

GET A  
HOLD OF  
YOURSELF.  
HERE,  
WIPE YOUR  
NOSE!



たっ！  
DRIP

WELL, WHEN  
I THINK THAT  
THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
MOMENT OF  
MY LIFE IS  
TOMORROW,  
I CAN'T  
HELP IT...



OF  
COURSE  
NOT!  
I'VE BEEN  
THINKING  
LIKE  
CRAZY!

YOU BETTER  
NOT ASK  
ME, "HOW  
SHOULD I  
CONFESS?"



...SO?

WHAT DID  
YOU WANT  
TO TALK  
ABOUT?



I WANT  
YOUR  
OPINION ON  
WHAT MIGHT  
HAVE THE  
HIGHEST  
CHANCE OF  
WORKING.

IT'S JUST...  
I ALMOST  
HAVE TOO  
MANY IDEAS.





WAIT, WAIT,  
WAIT.

STOP  
RIGHT  
THERE.

"IF ONLY I COULD  
PEEL BACK THE  
TIGHTLY-DRAWN  
PETALS OF YOUR  
HIDDEN FLOWER,  
THEN..."

"My dear  
BELOVED,"

"SEMPAI...  
A WORD THAT  
FEELS SO  
CLOSE, YET SO  
FAR AWAY."



AHEM...

UHH  
...

FIRST,



NO WAY!  
WHAT  
PART?!

IN FACT,  
IT ALMOST  
SOUNDS LIKE  
SOME SORT  
OF EROTIC  
NOVEL...

I SHUDDER TO  
THINK THAT  
YOU ACTUALLY  
BELIEVE THAT  
SOUNDS "COOL".

HUH?  
WHY  
NOT?

YOU'RE NOT  
SERIOUSLY GOING  
TO READ HER  
THAT POEM,  
ARE YOU?



Y-YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
HANG  
YOUR  
HEAD!

DON'T  
GIRLS FIND  
THIS KIND  
OF STUFF  
TOUCHING?!

GRAB



HUH?! WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
BOUQUET  
OF ROSES I  
ORDERED WITH  
MY NEW YEAR'S  
MONEY?!

CANCEL  
IT, NOW!

DELETE  
IT.

TH-THEN  
WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
LOVE SONG  
I MADE  
WITH THIS  
MUSIC APP?

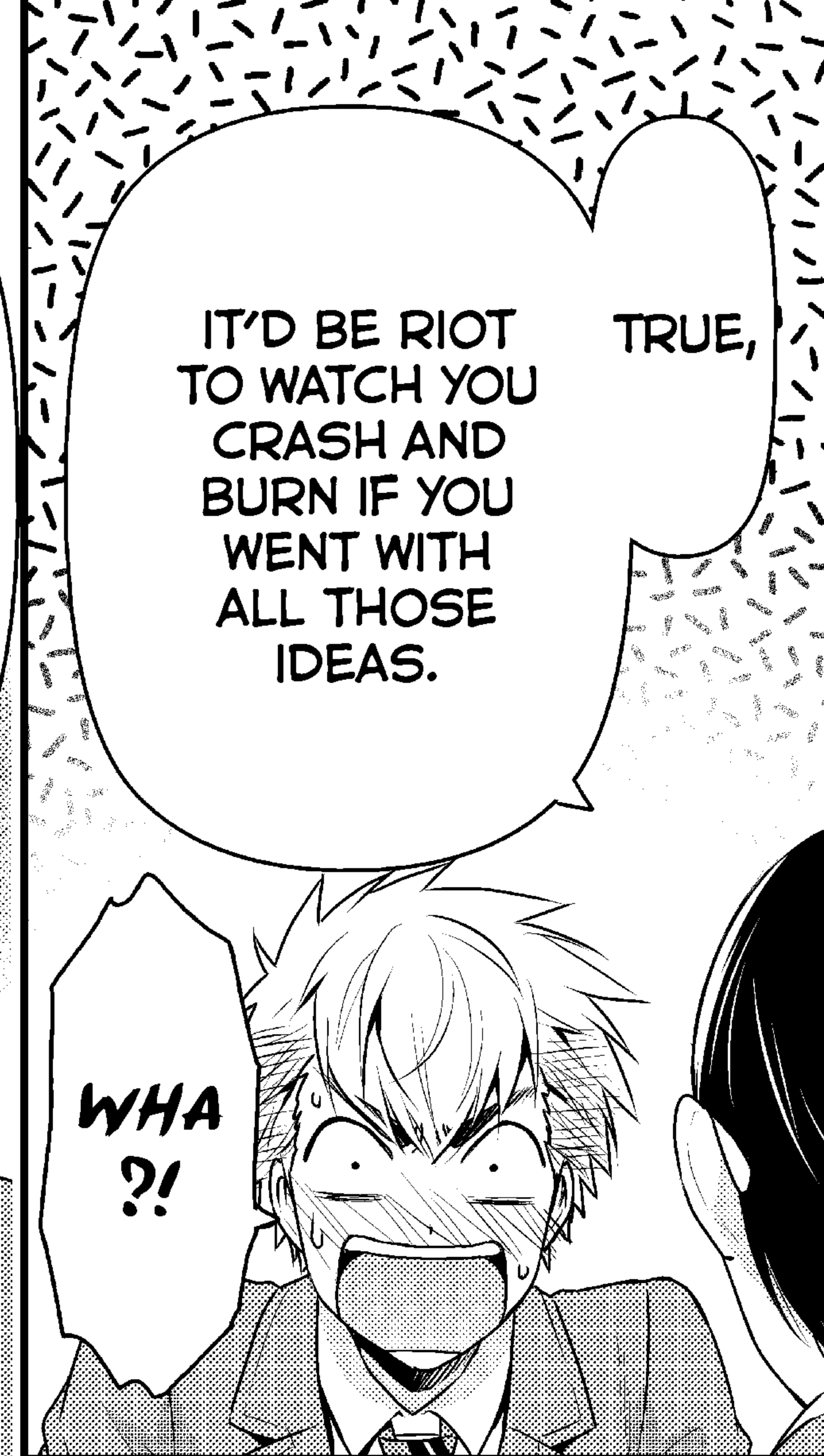




IF A GUY  
LIKE YOU  
TRIES TO  
PLAY COOL,  
YOU'LL JUST  
SCREW  
IT UP.

JUST  
ACT  
NATURAL.

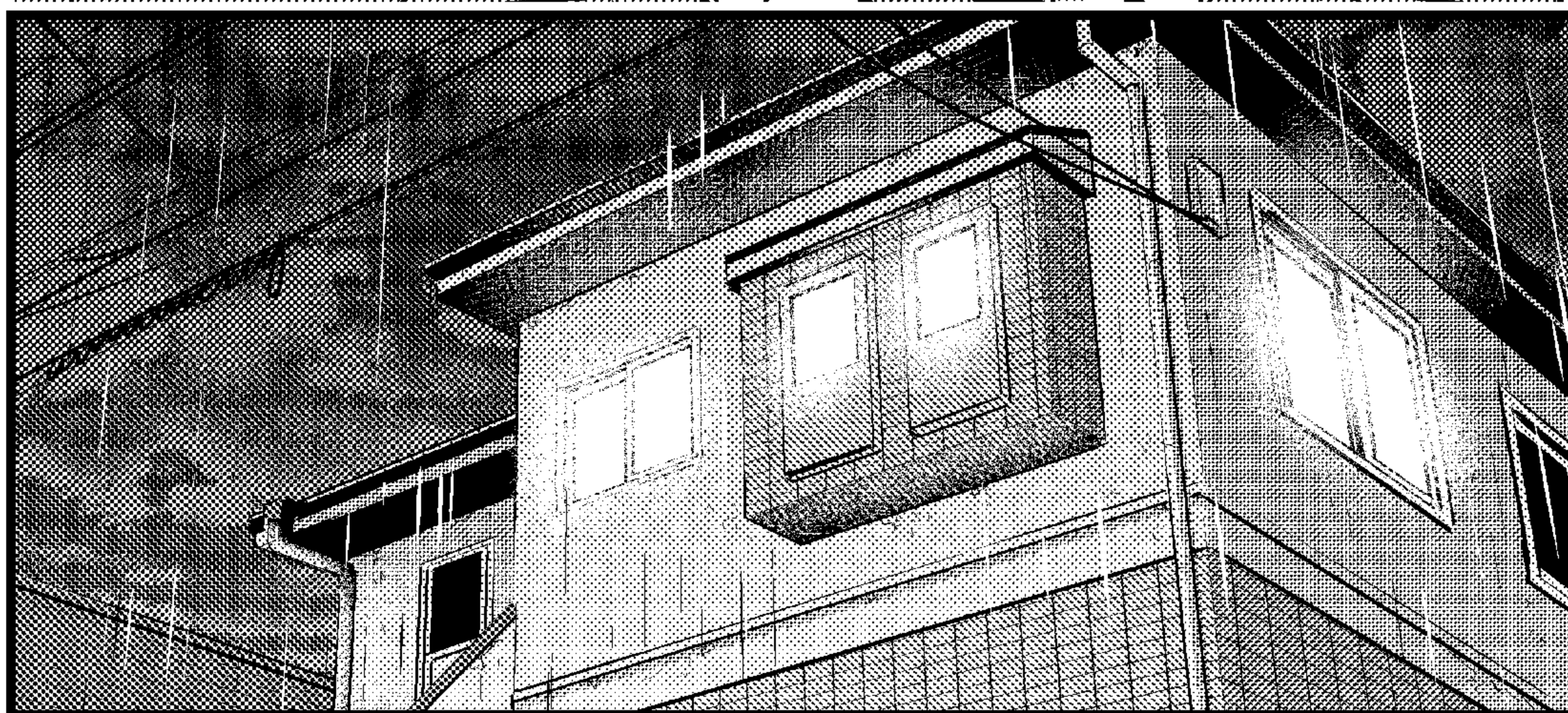
ALL YOU  
HAVE TO  
DO IS TELL  
HER HOW  
YOU FEEL,  
RIGHT?



WHA  
?!

IT'D BE RIOT  
TO WATCH YOU  
CRASH AND  
BURN IF YOU  
WENT WITH  
ALL THOSE  
IDEAS.

TRUE,



I...I HAVE  
TO WRITE A  
LETTER TO  
GIVE MY  
UPPER-  
CLASSMEN  
AT THE  
GRADUATION  
CEREMONY.

OKAY.

WELL, I'M  
GOING  
TO BED.  
NIGHT.



HEY, BRO.  
AREN'T  
YOU GOING  
TO BED  
YET?

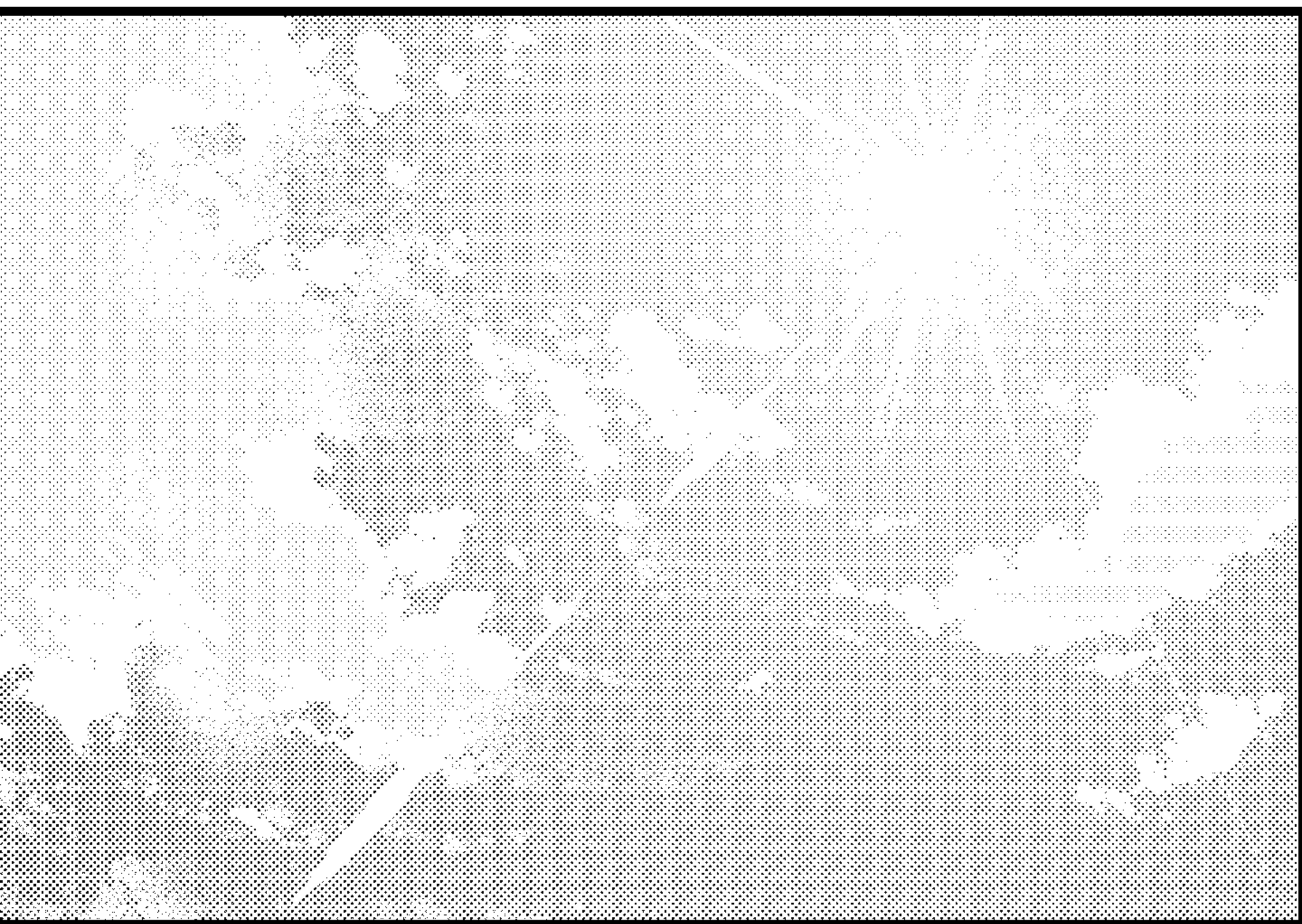
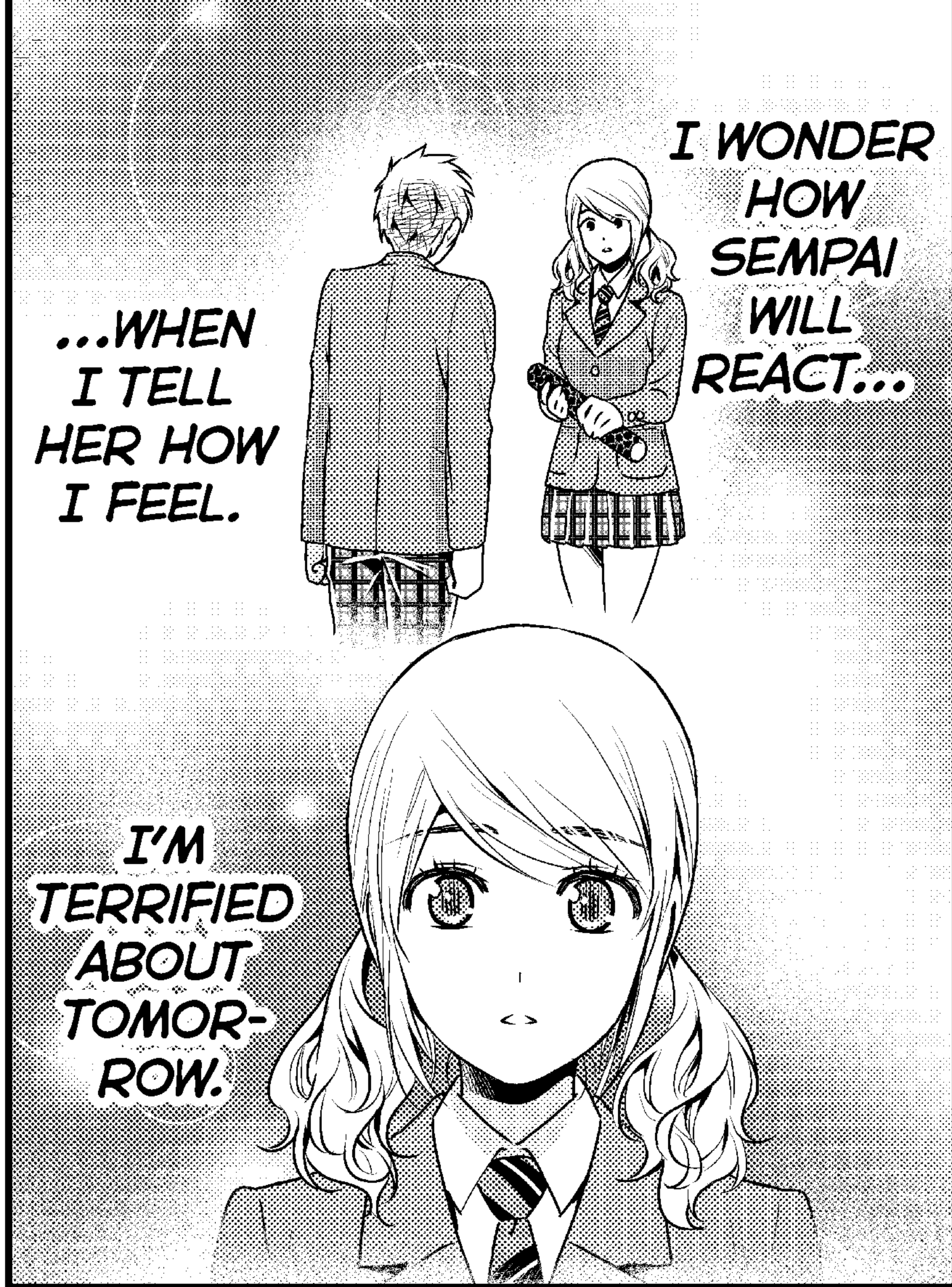
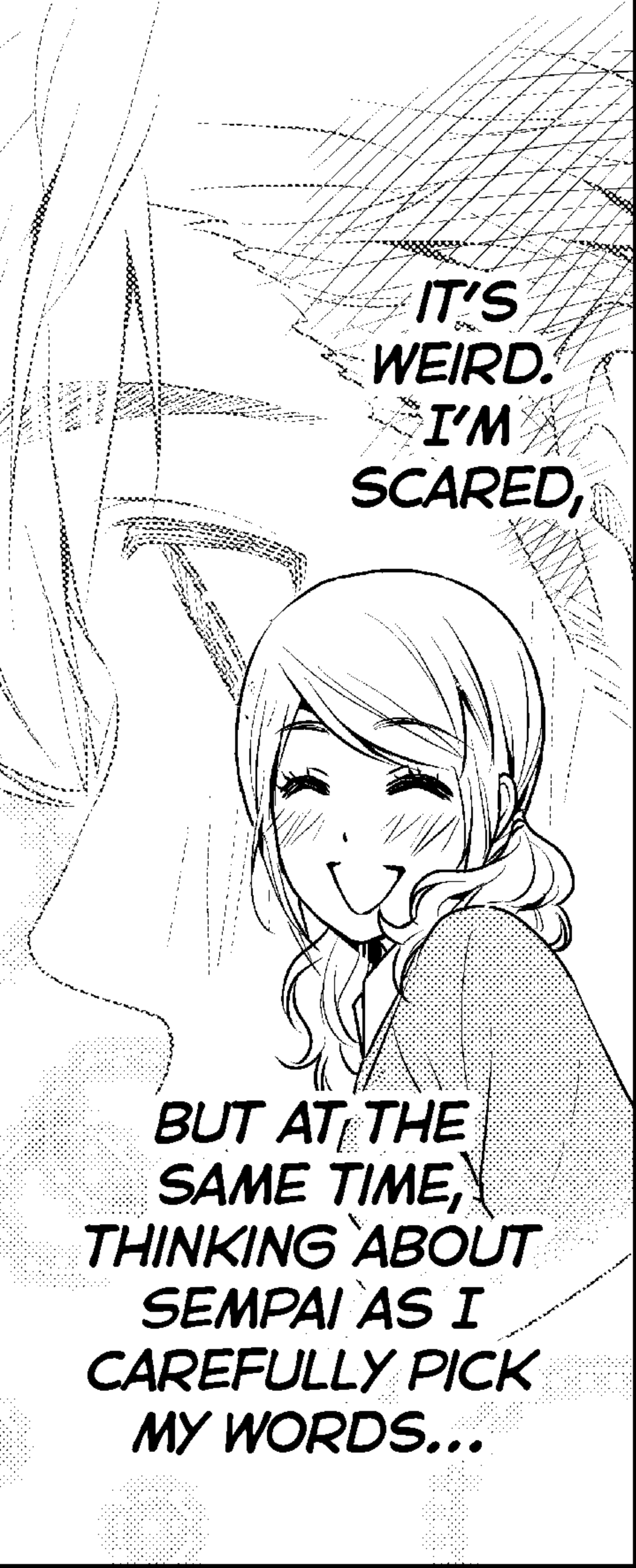
TWITCH



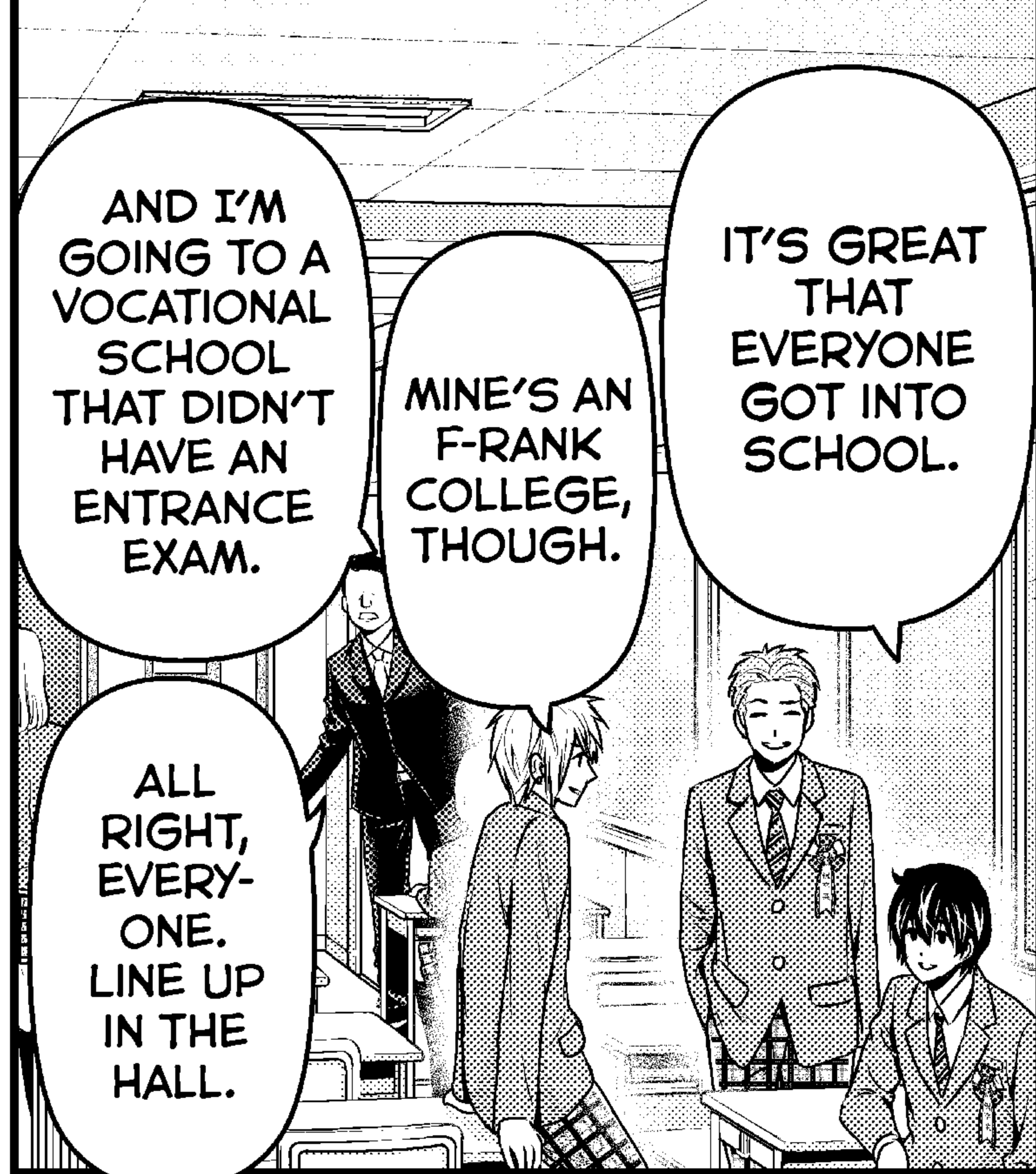
IS BOTH  
YOUR  
BIGGEST  
WEAKNESS  
AND YOUR  
GREATEST  
STRENGTH.

THE FACT  
THAT YOU'RE  
INCAPABLE OF  
THROWING A  
CURVEBALL  
...









AND I'M GOING TO A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL THAT DIDN'T HAVE AN ENTRANCE EXAM.

MINE'S AN F-RANK COLLEGE, THOUGH.

IT'S GREAT THAT EVERYONE GOT INTO SCHOOL.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. LINE UP IN THE HALL.



WANNA REDO HIGH SCHOOL?

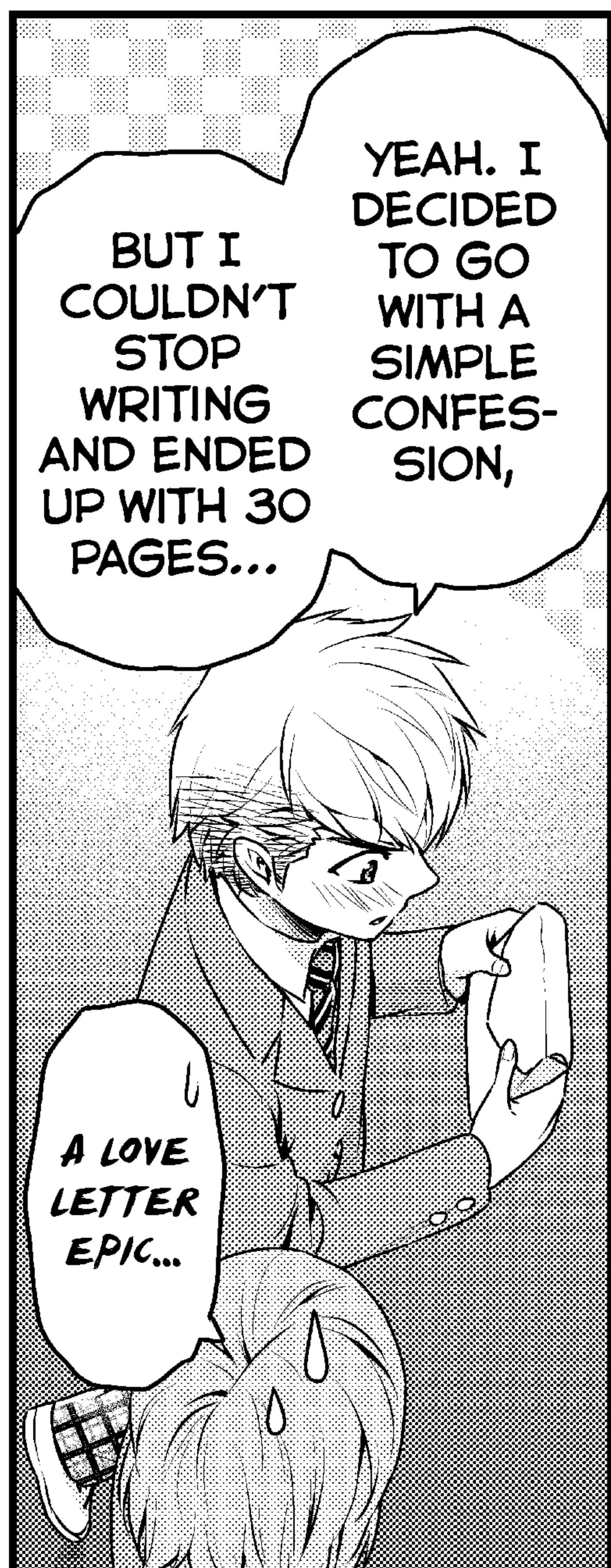
IT SURE WENT BY IN A FLASH, HUH?

NO WAY IN HELL.



NAH, YOU'RE GOOD.

MAN... OUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS ARE FINALLY OVER.



BUT I COULDN'T STOP WRITING AND ENDED UP WITH 30 PAGES...

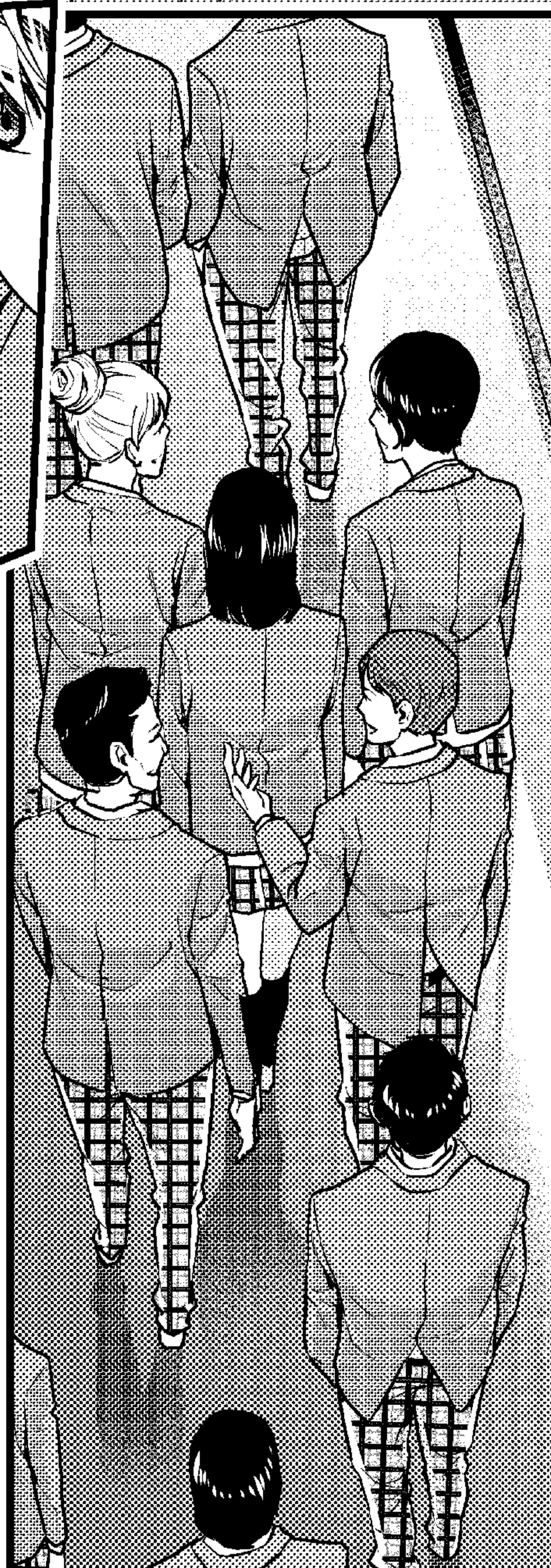
YEAH. I DECIDED TO GO WITH A SIMPLE CONFESION,

A LOVE LETTER EPIC...

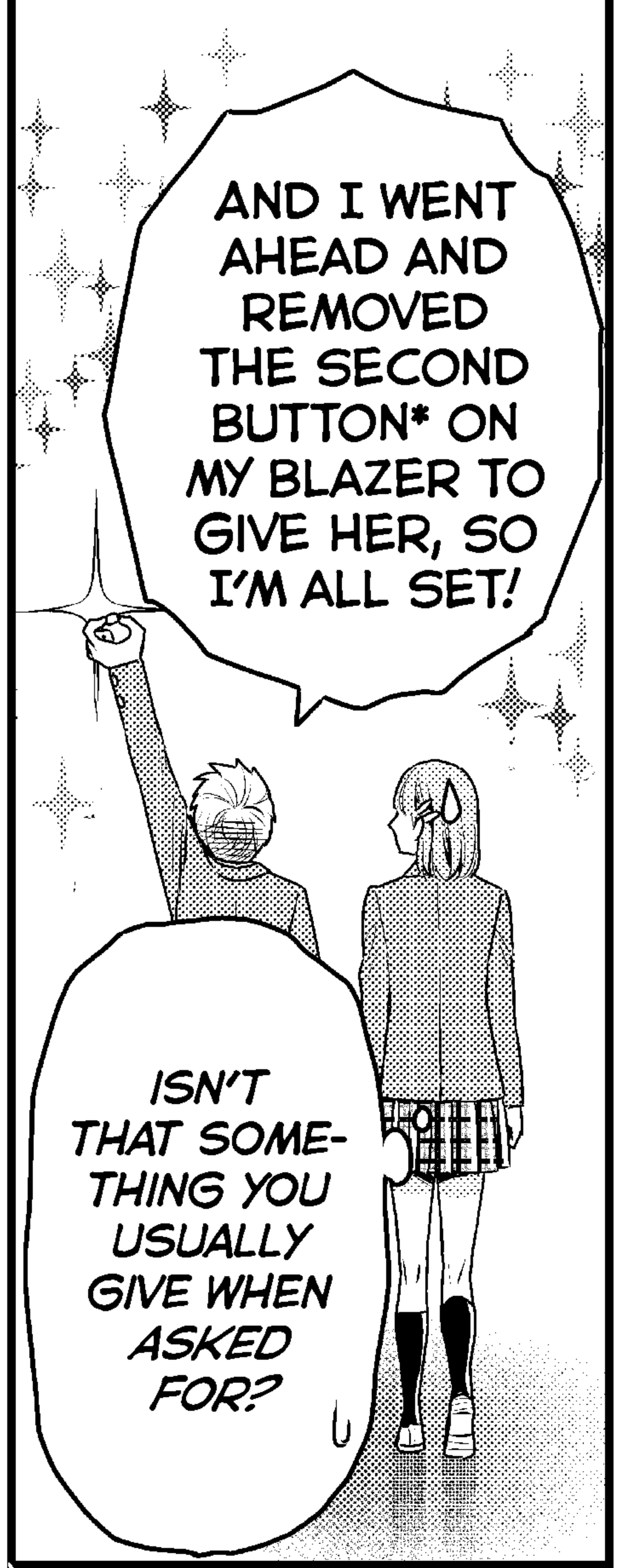


OSAKA-KUN!

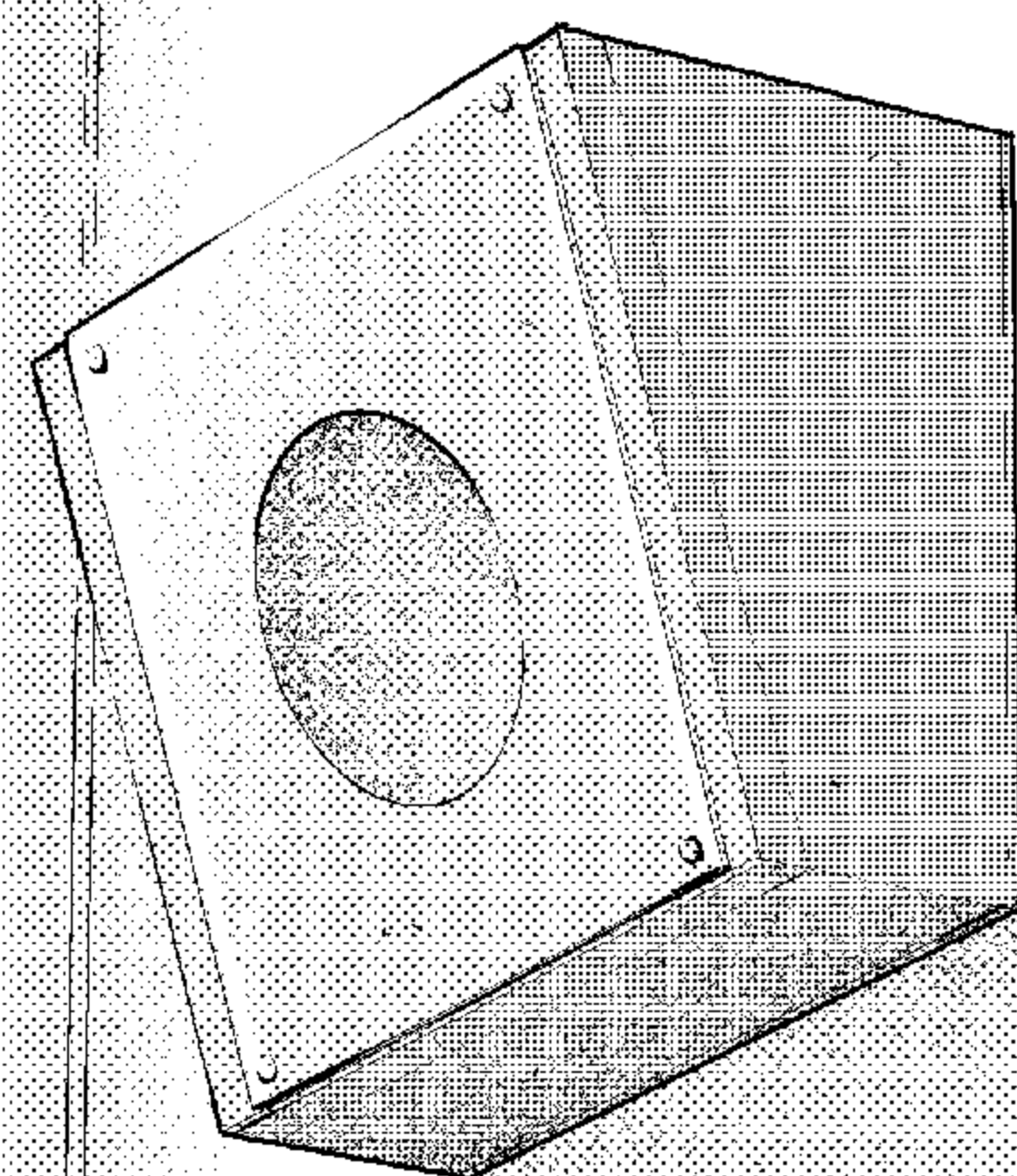
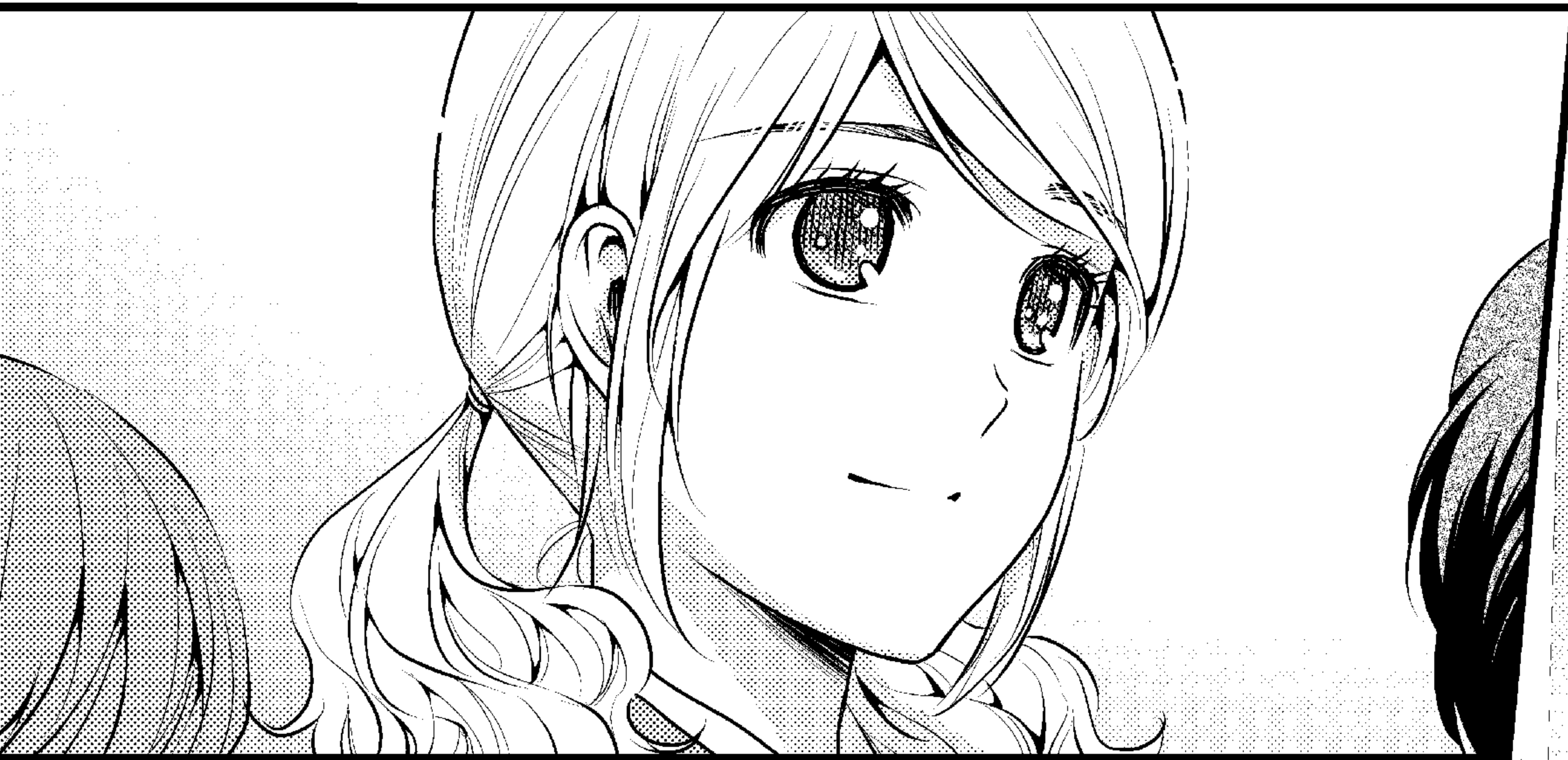
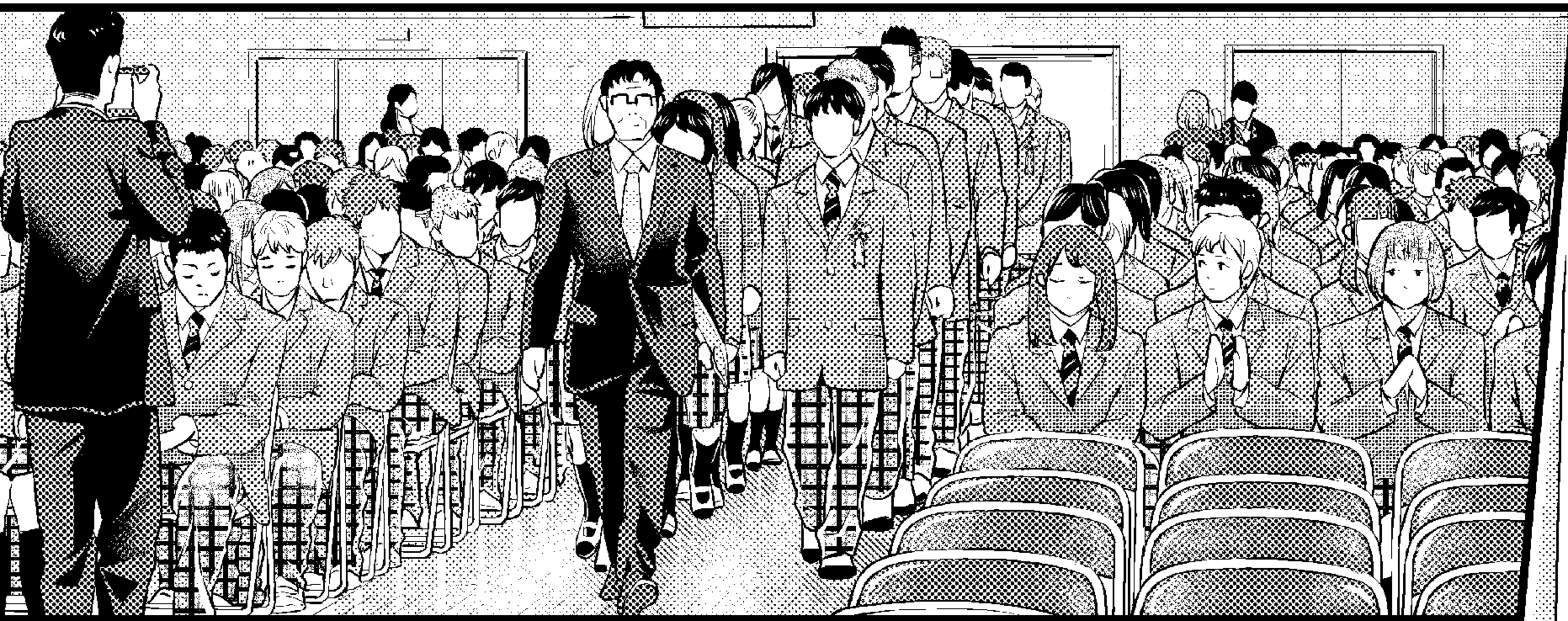
TODAY'S THE DAY, RIGHT? SHIBASAKI-KUN TOLD ME EVERYTHING.







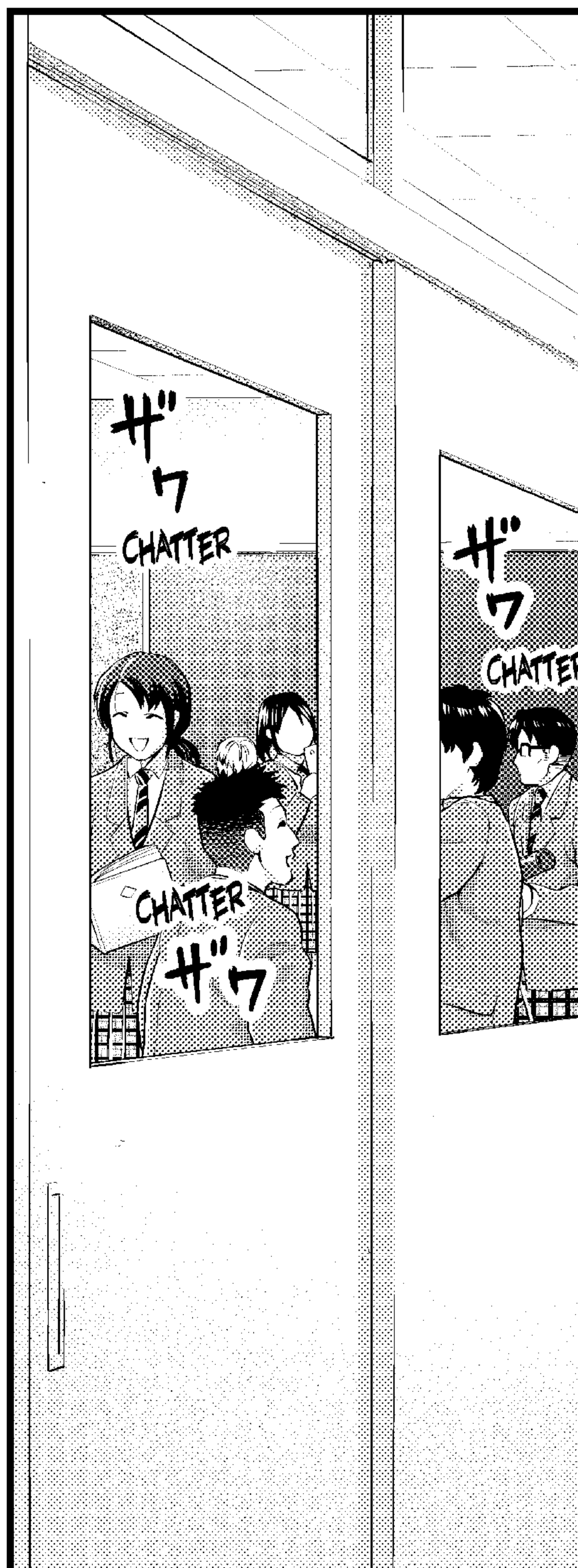
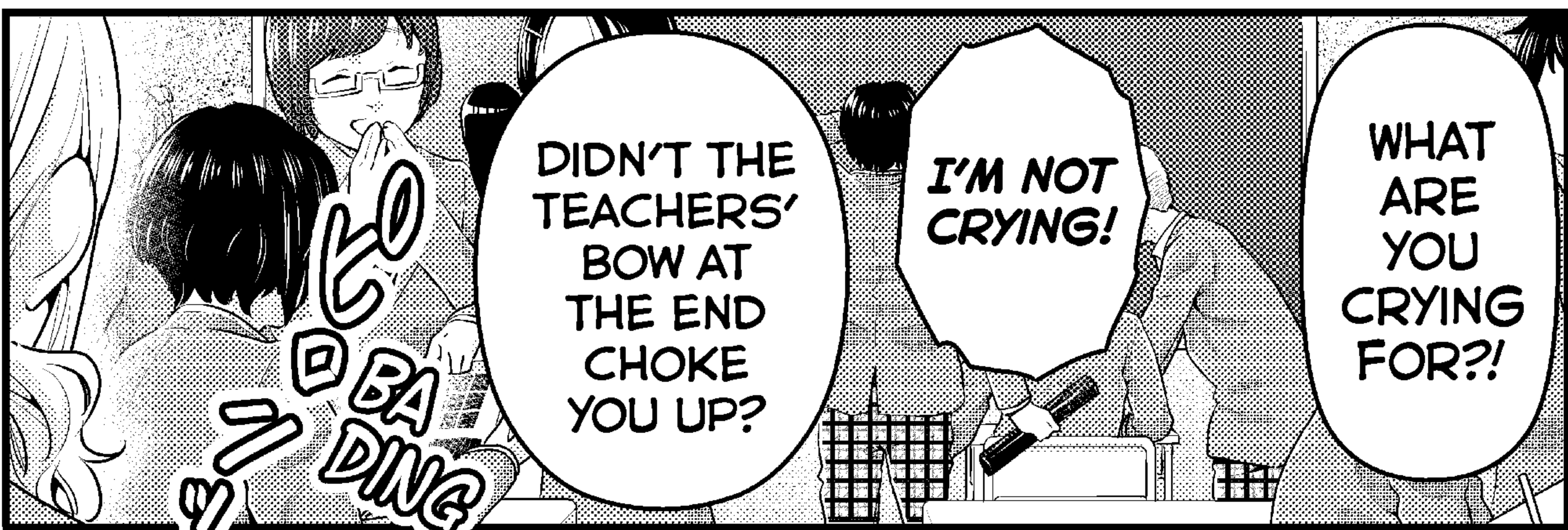
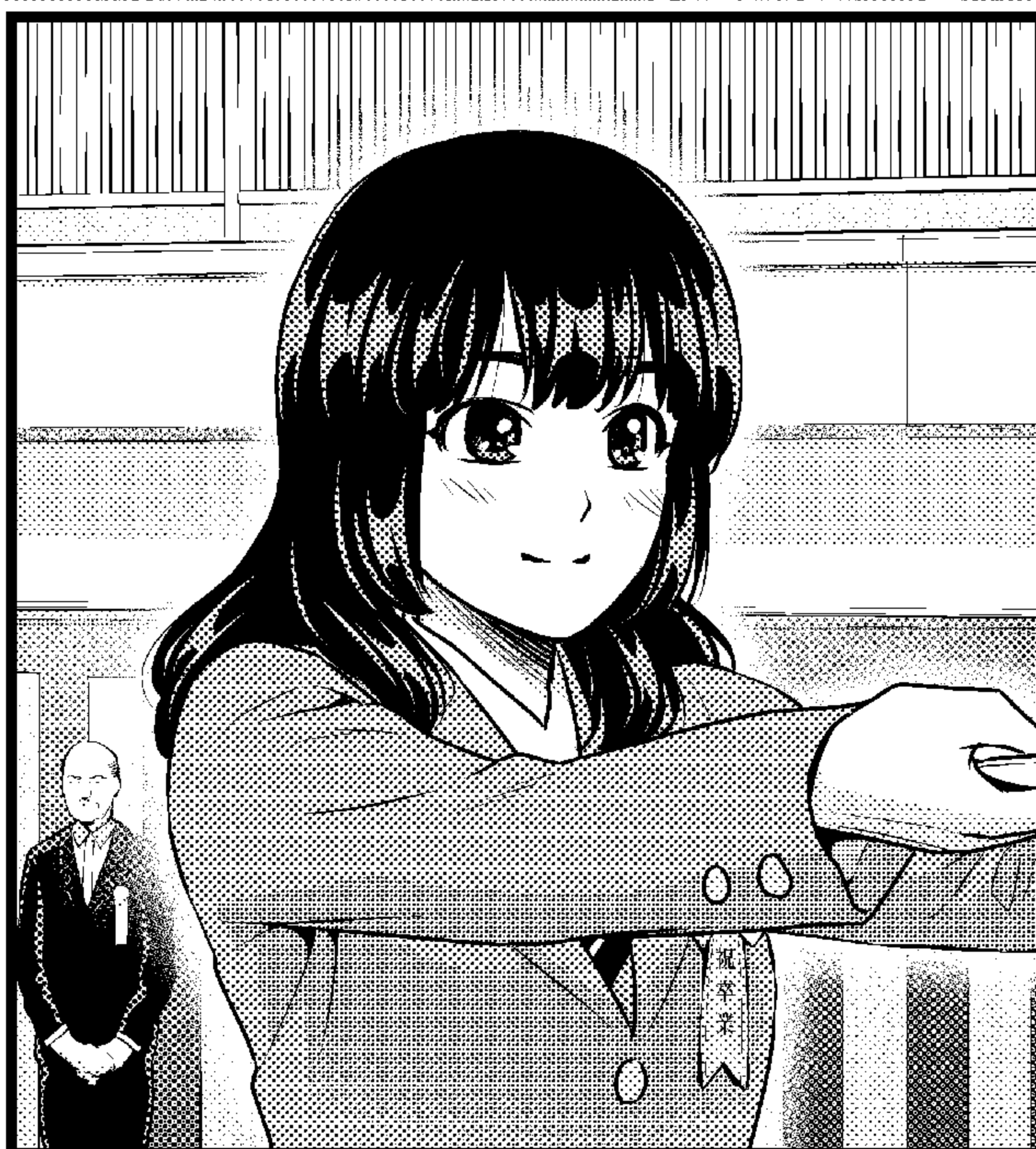
\*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES.



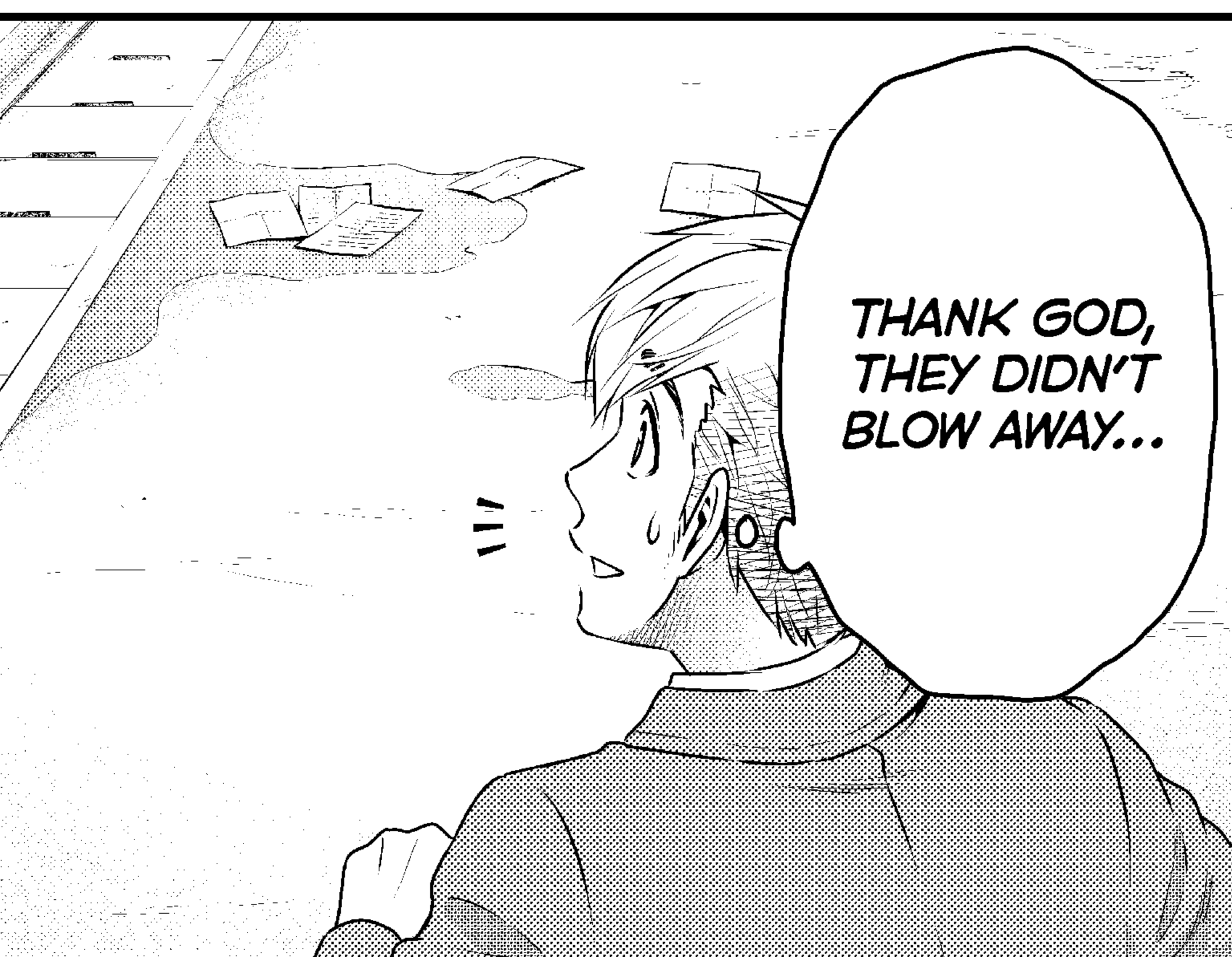
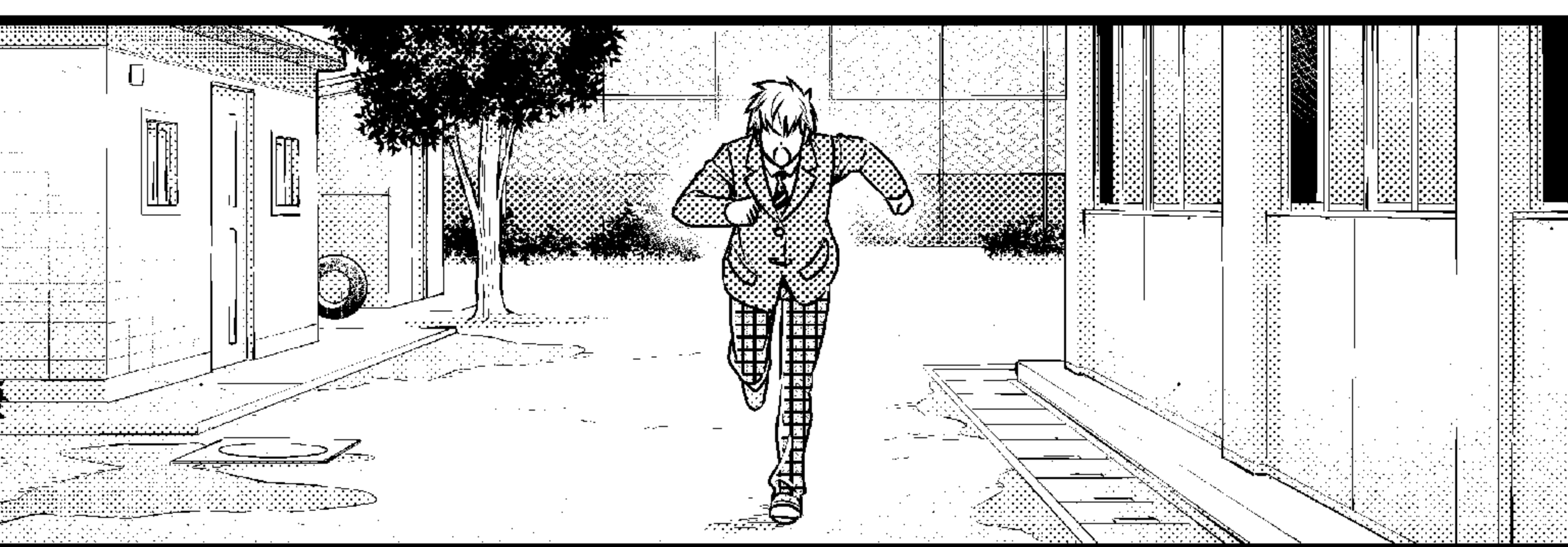
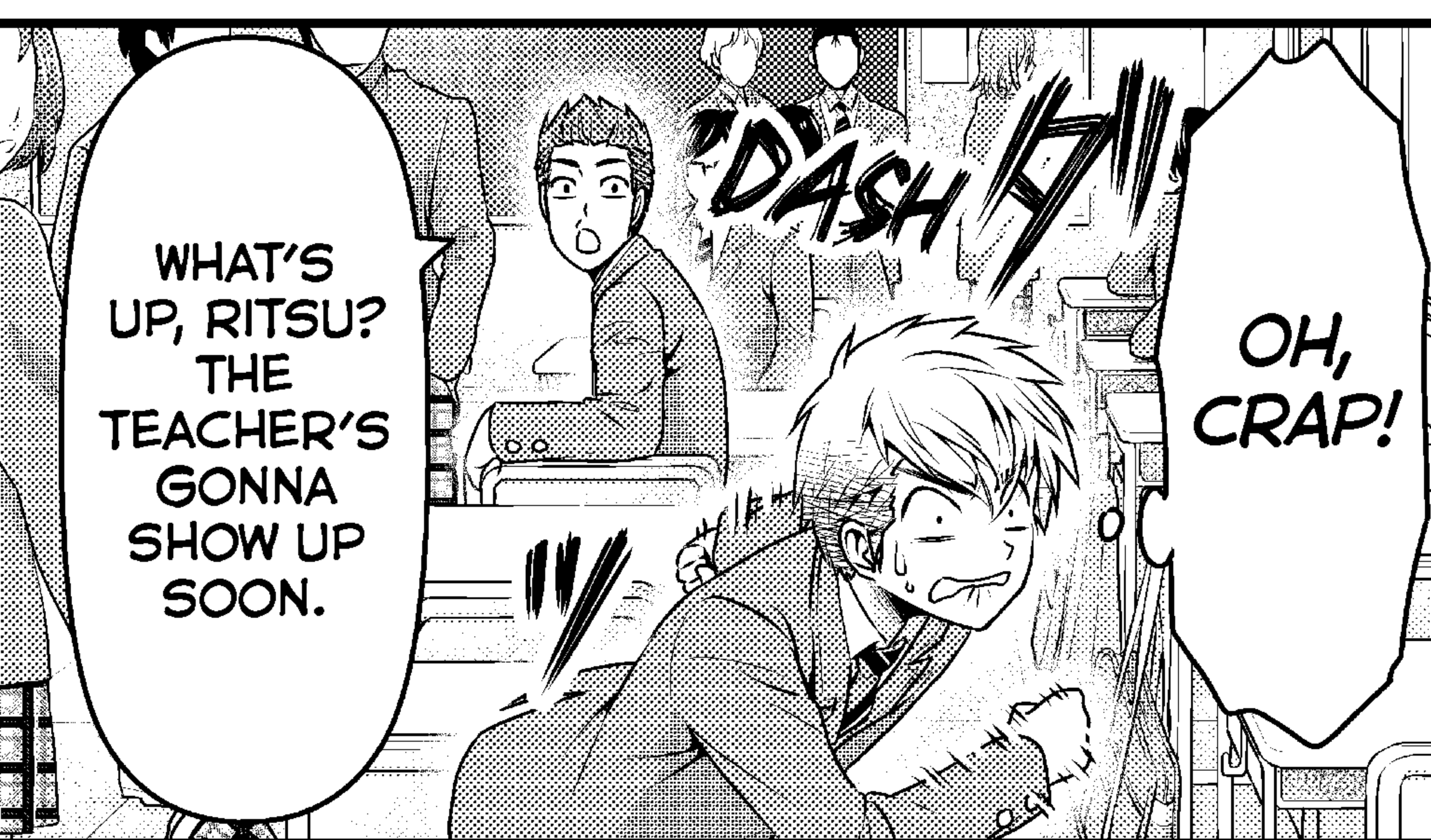
PLEASE  
WELCOME  
...

OUR  
GRADU-  
ATES.

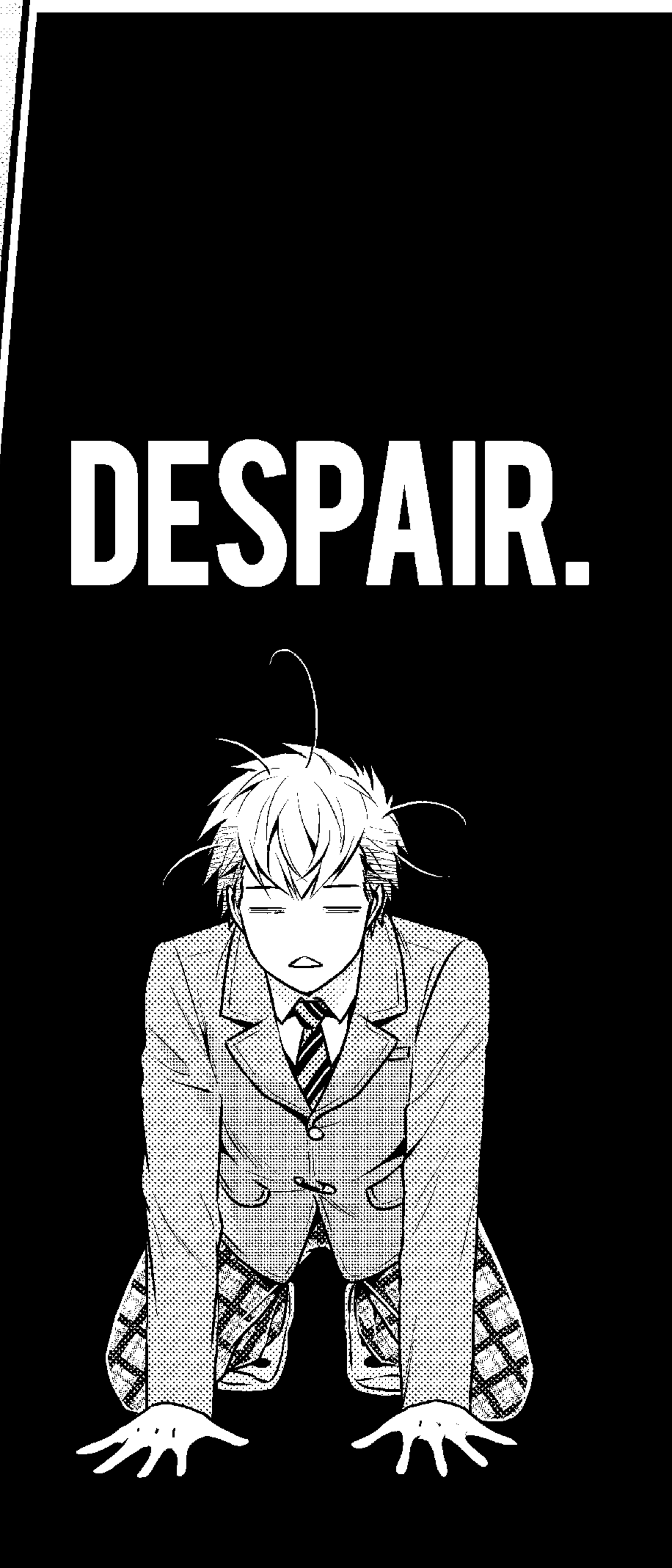
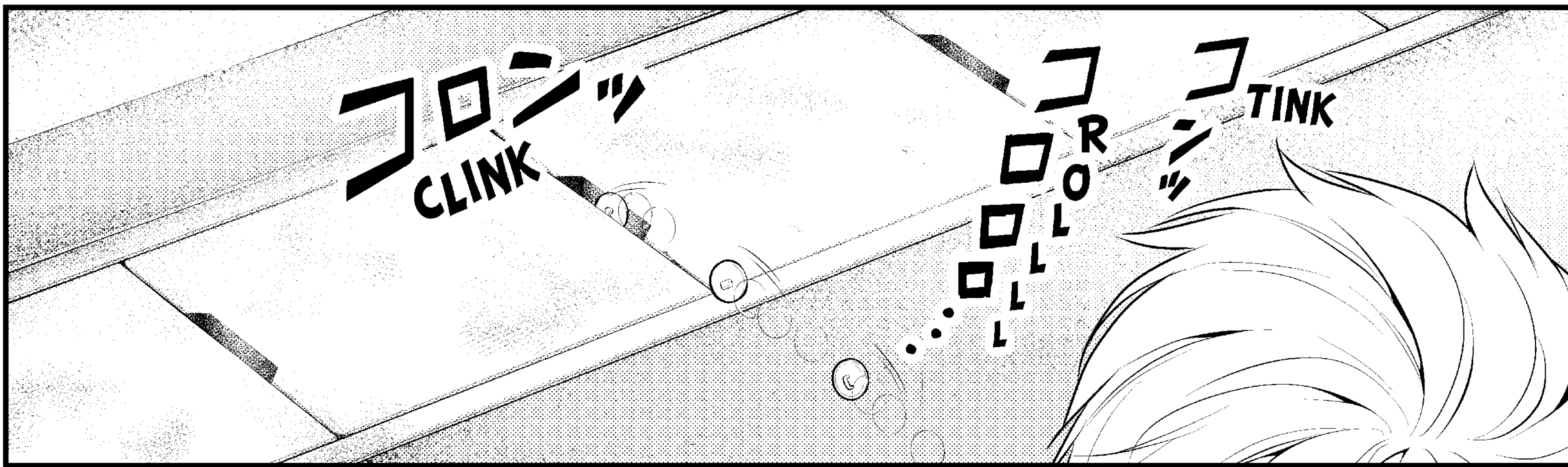












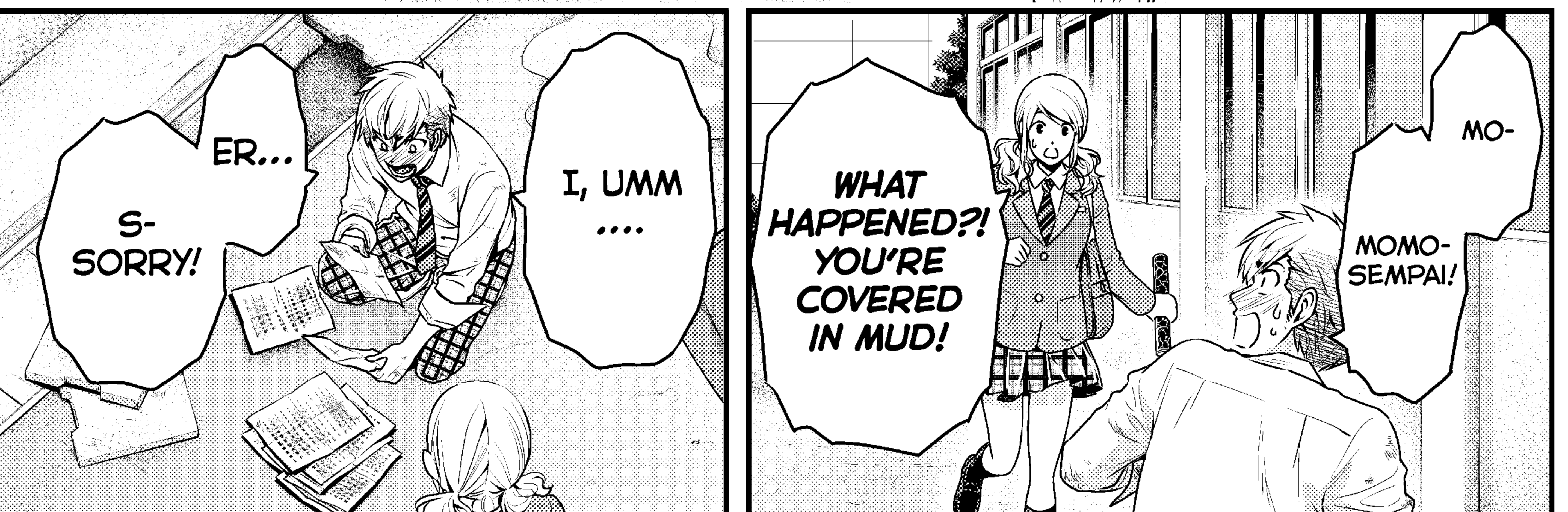




ドクドク...

TWITCH

HE WON'T  
RESPOND  
ON LINE,  
EITHER...



...I WANTED  
TO LOOK  
MANLY IN  
FRONT OF  
HER, BUT...

RIK-  
KUN  
?

JUST FOR  
ONCE...

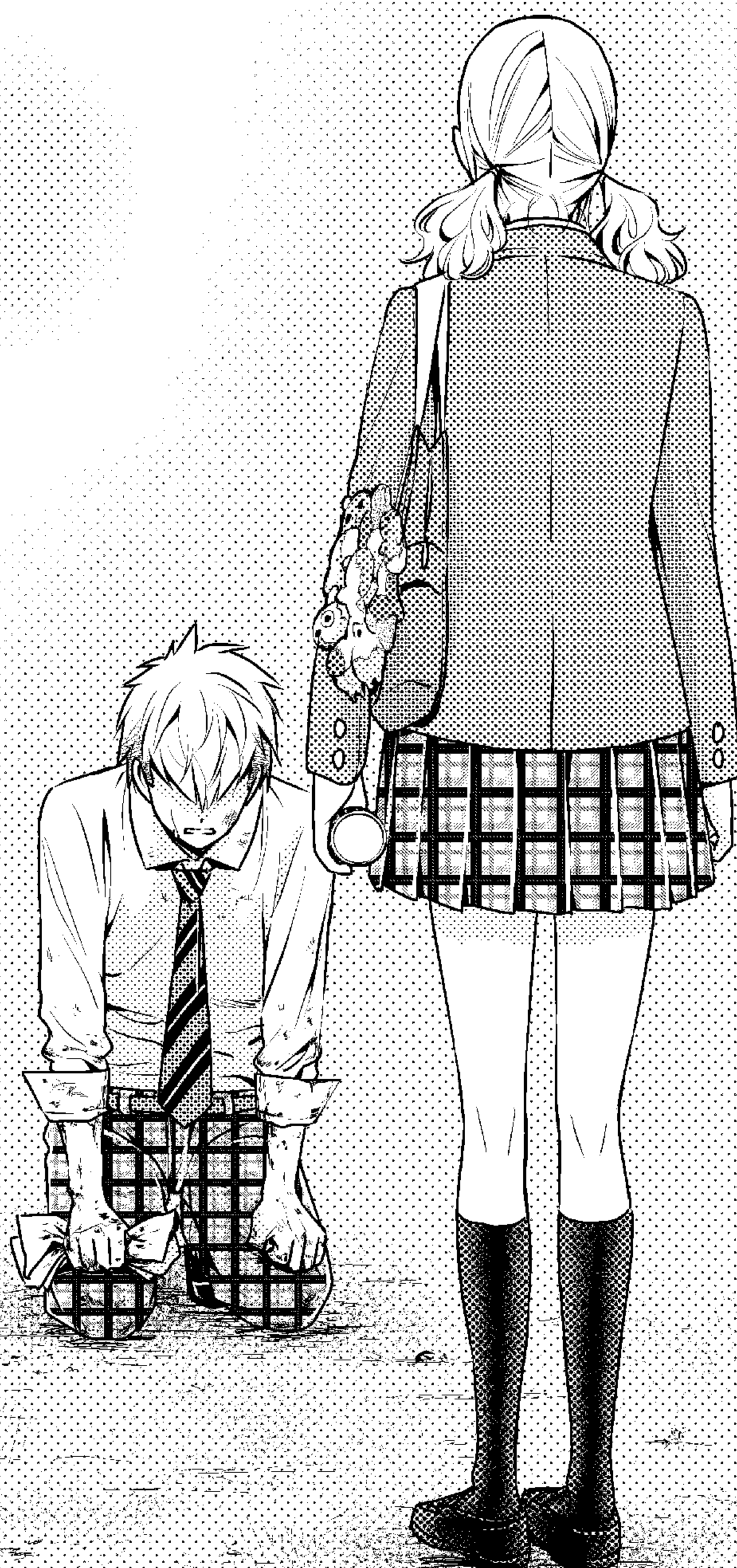
汗  
の  
DRIP

THIS ISN'T  
HOW IT WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO GO.

I WORKED  
SO HARD TO  
BE READY  
FOR TODAY.



**I LOVE  
YOU,**



**MOMO-  
SEMPAI**

...





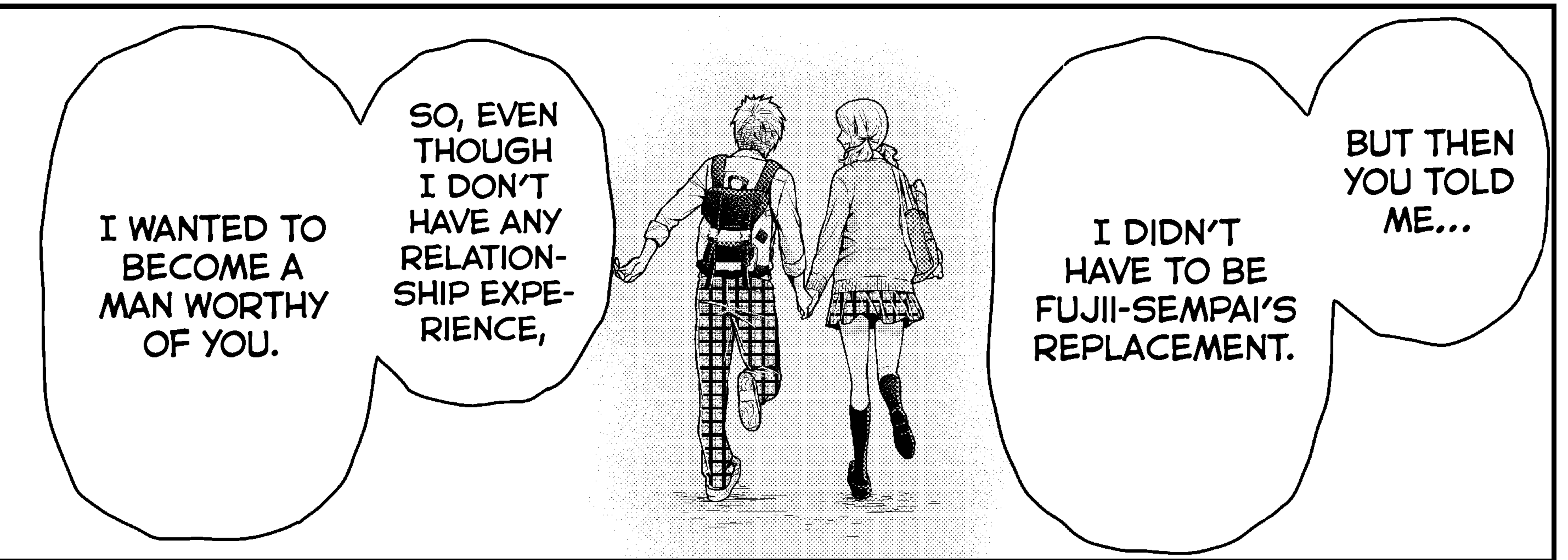
I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
HIM...

ON THE  
NIGHT  
OF THE  
CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL.

I WAS  
JEALOUS OF  
FUJII-SEMPAI  
BECAUSE YOU  
WERE ALWAYS  
SMILING  
AT HIM.



I  
HAVE  
...  
SINCE  
LAST  
YEAR.



I WANTED TO  
BECOME A  
MAN WORTHY  
OF YOU.

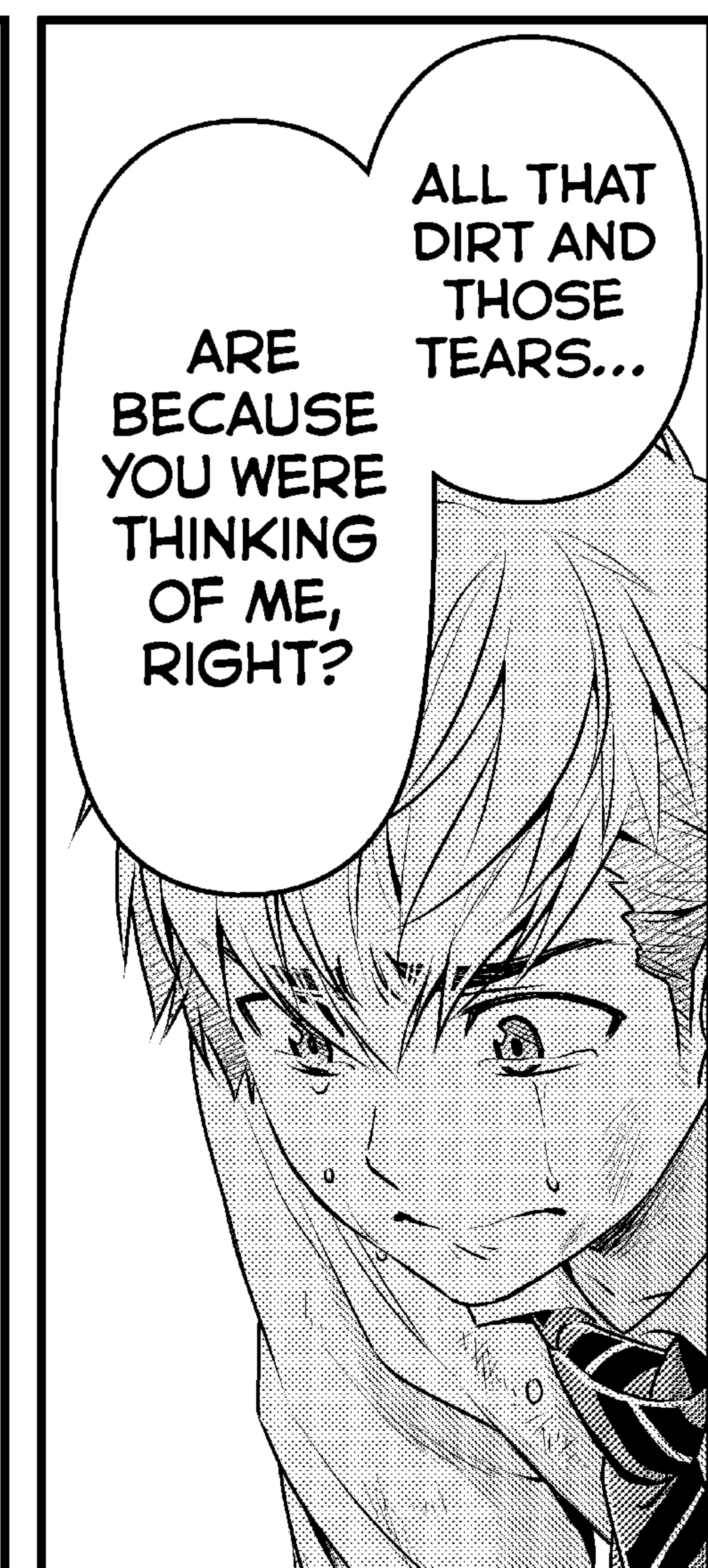
SO, EVEN  
THOUGH  
I DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
RELATION-  
SHIP EXPE-  
RIENCE,

I DIDN'T  
HAVE TO BE  
FUJII-SEMPAI'S  
REPLACEMENT.

BUT THEN  
YOU TOLD  
ME...



...ARE  
YOU  
SURE  
?



ARE  
BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
THINKING  
OF ME,  
RIGHT?

ALL THAT  
DIRT AND  
THOSE  
TEARS...



I DROPPED  
THE BLAZER  
BUTTON I  
WANTED TO  
GIVE YOU.

I ALWAYS  
END UP  
LOOKING  
PATHETIC...

BUT  
I'M JUST  
HOPELESS  
...

YOU'RE  
NOT  
HOPE-  
LESS.





**...IF I'M  
YOUR FIRST  
GIRLFRIEND,  
RIKKUN?**

**WILL IT  
REALLY  
BE OKAY**

...



**SO DON'T  
CALL  
YOURSELF  
HOPELESS,  
OKAY?**

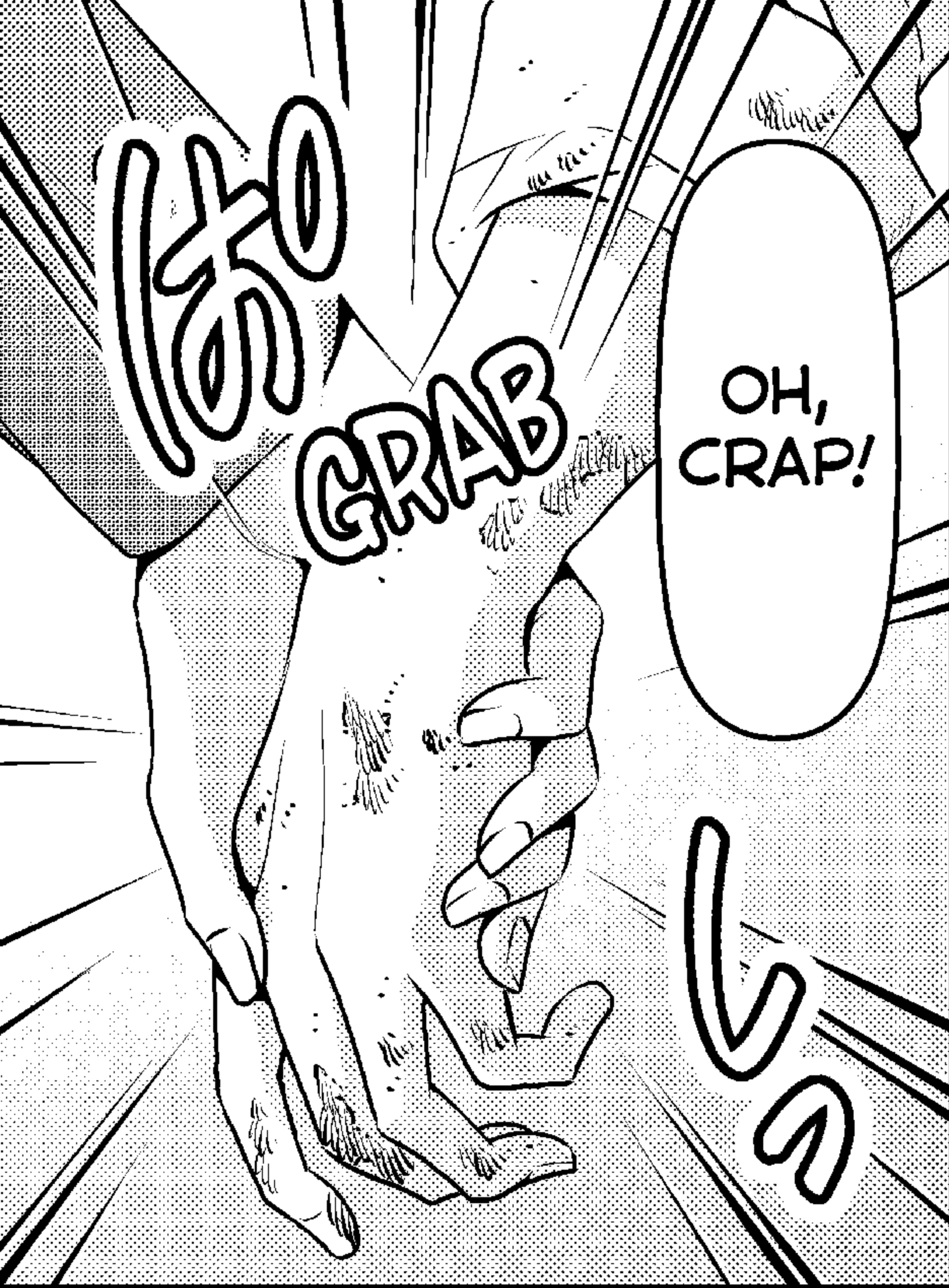
**I ALREADY  
KNOW JUST  
HOW NICE  
YOU ARE,**

**WHEN YOU  
CRIED FOR  
ME IN THE  
CLUBROOM.**

**I WAS  
REALLY  
HAPPY**

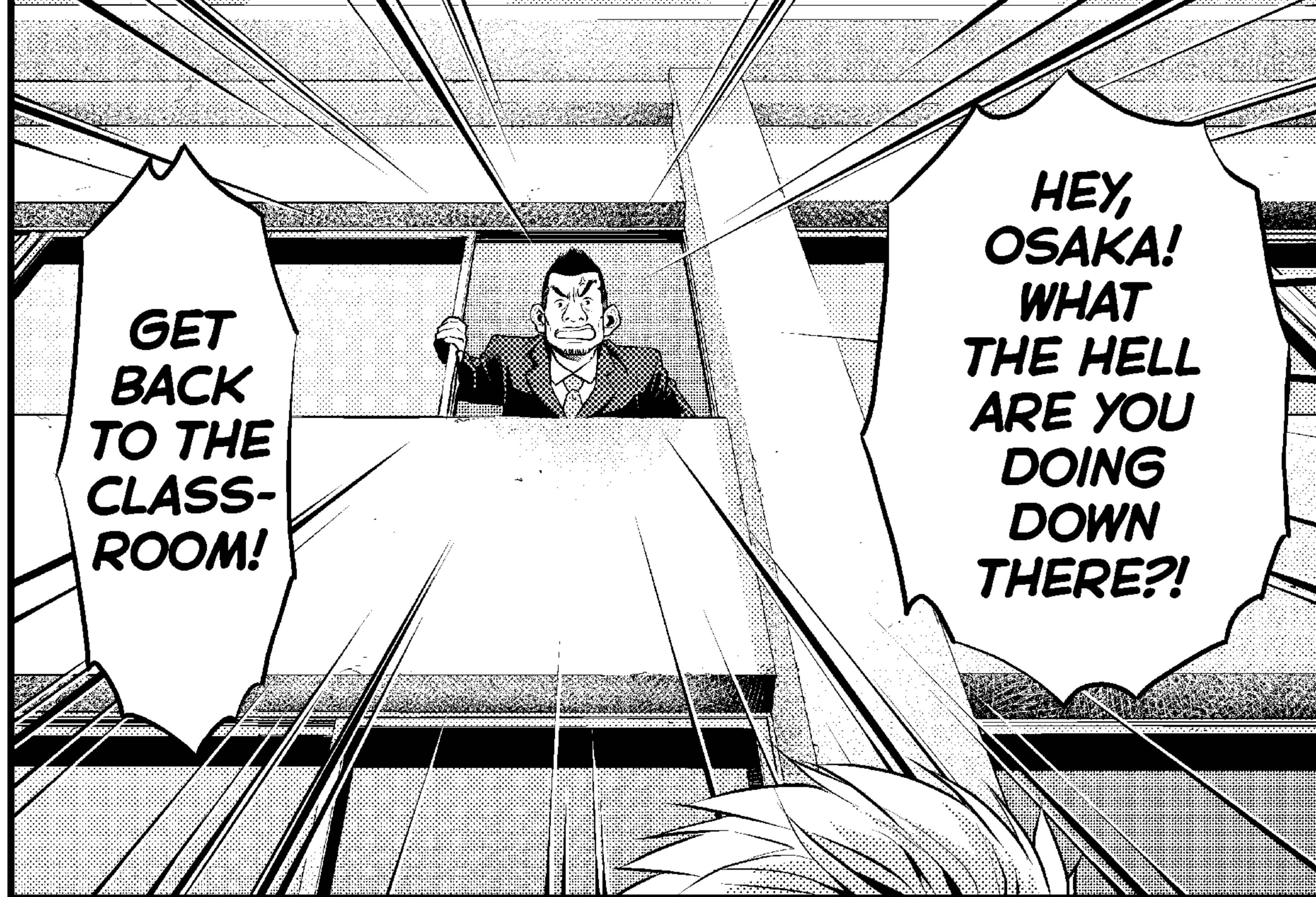
...





は  
GRAB

OH,  
CRAP!



GET  
BACK  
TO THE  
CLASS-  
ROOM!

HEY,  
OSAKA!  
WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
DOWN  
THERE?!



MO-



RUN,  
RIKKUN!



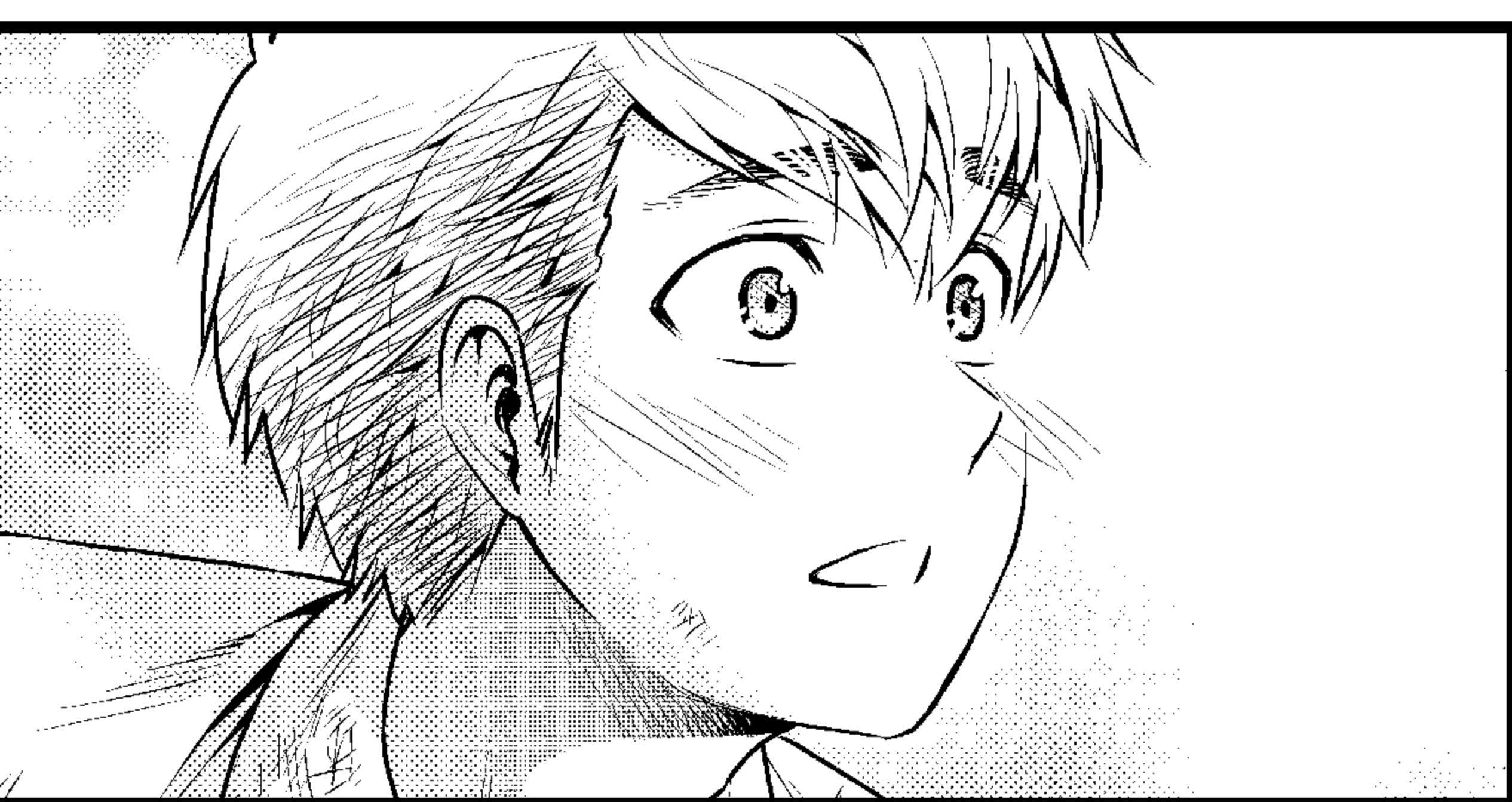
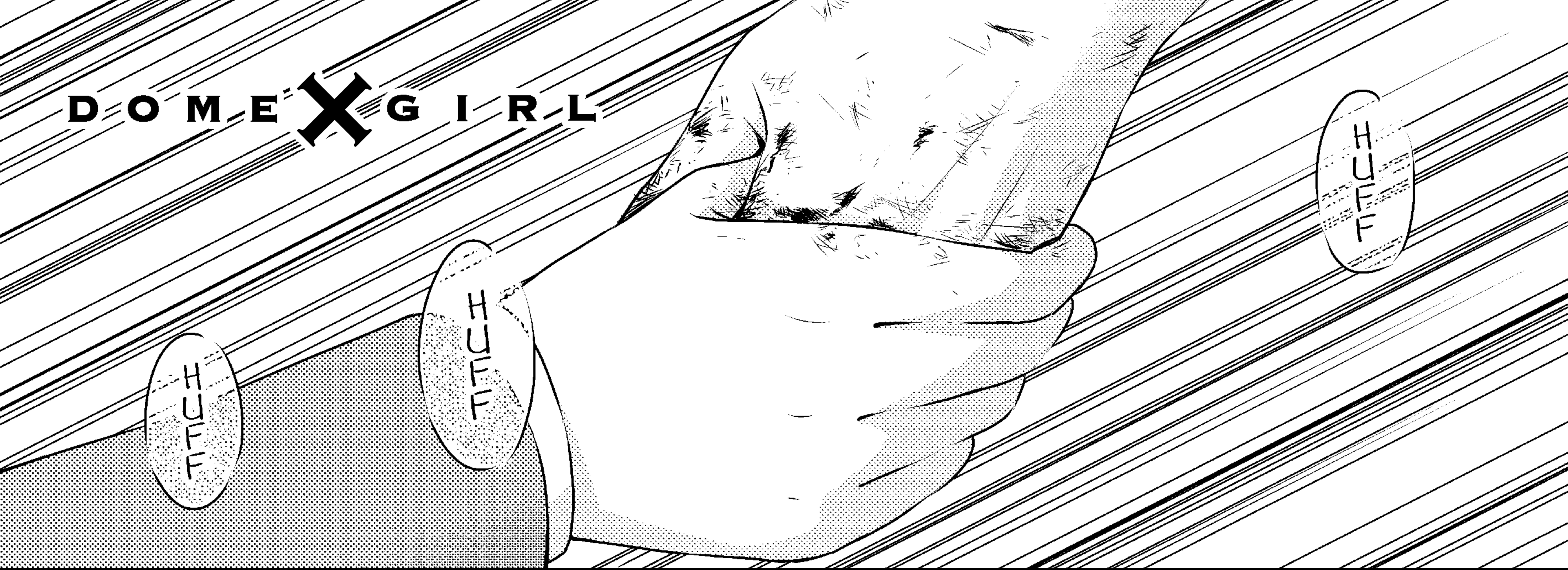
IF YOU  
LOST YOUR  
BLAZER'S  
SECOND  
BUTTON,

THEN YOU  
CAN JUST  
GIVE ME  
THE ONE  
ON YOUR  
SHIRT.



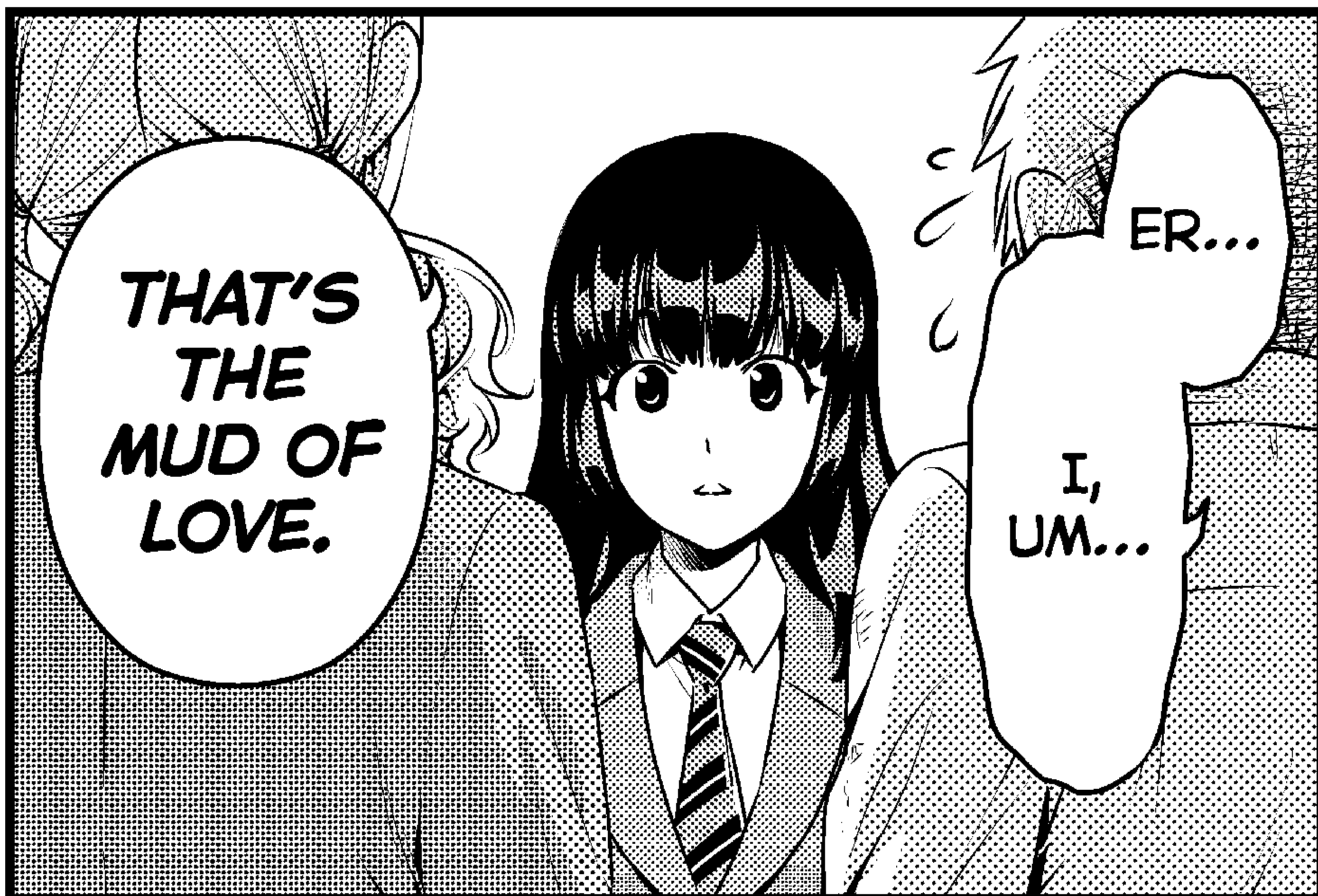
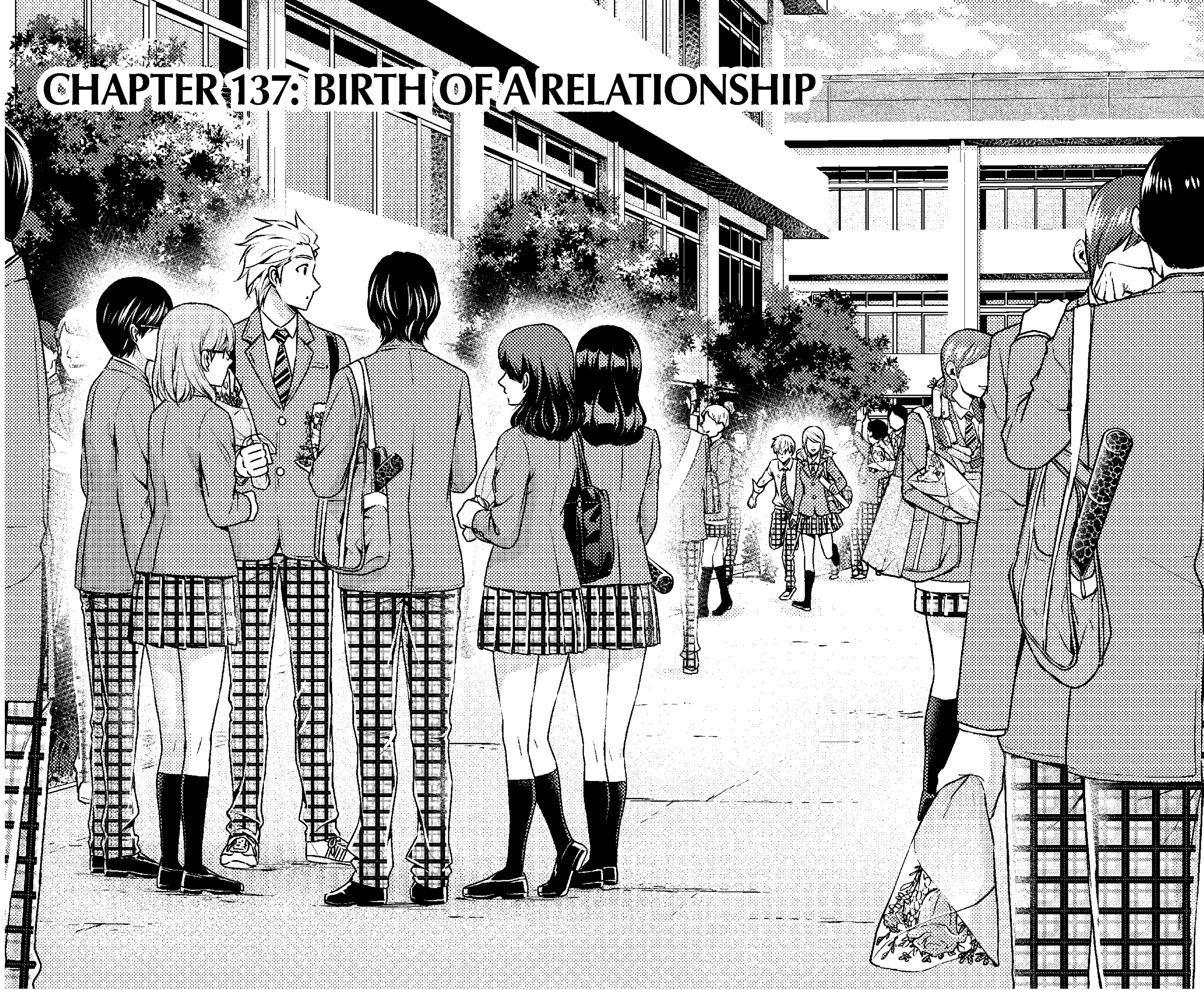




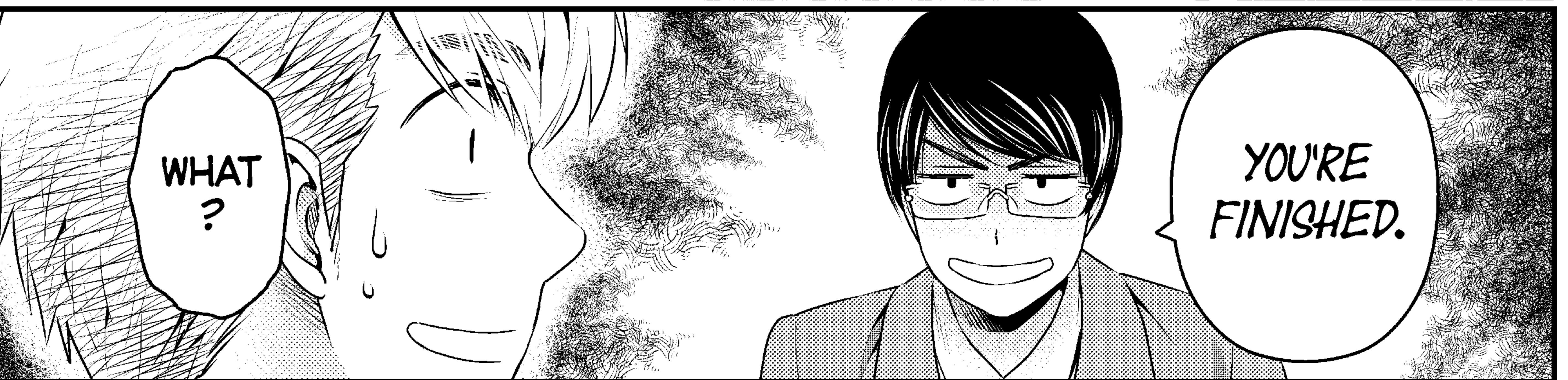




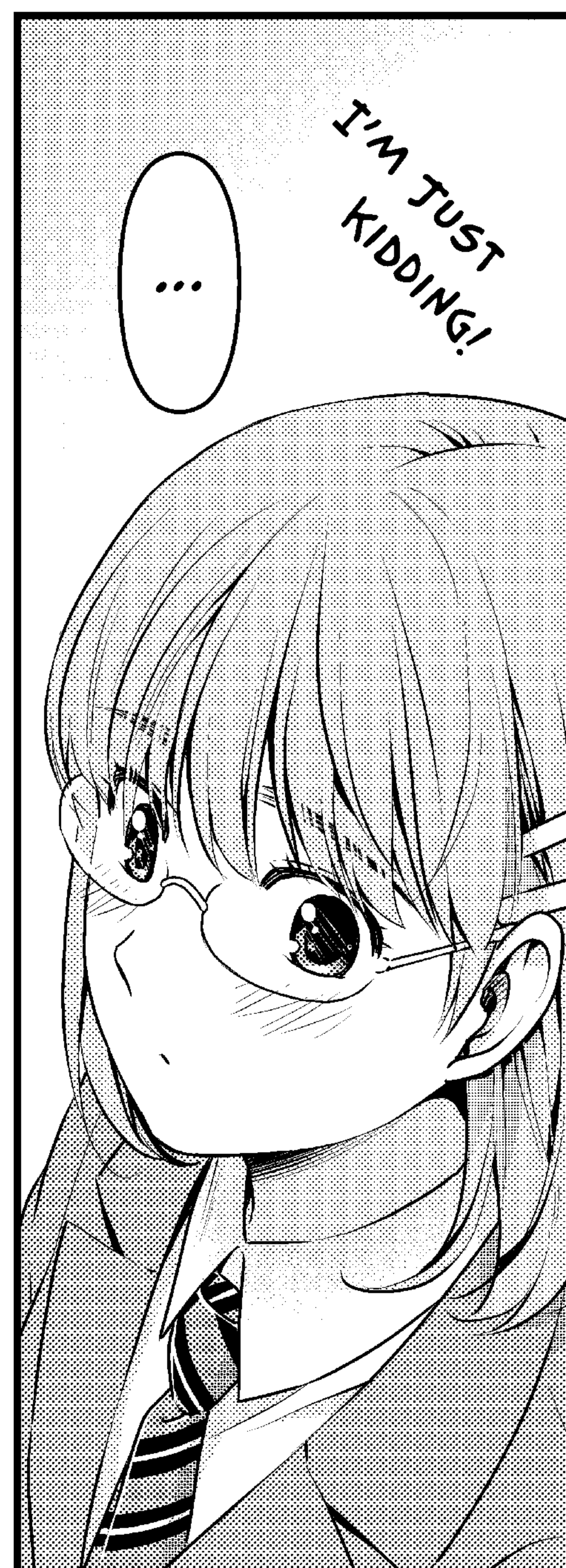
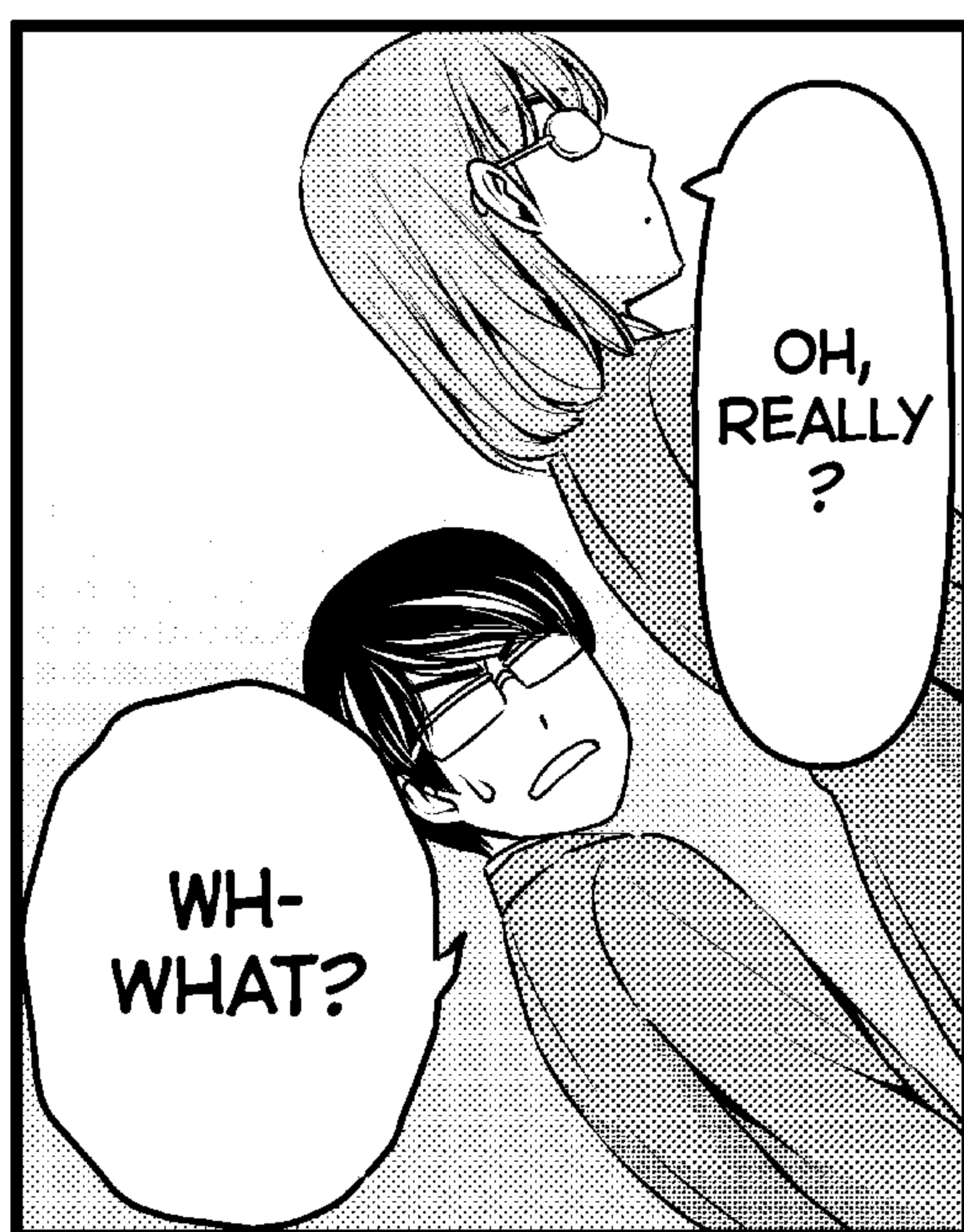
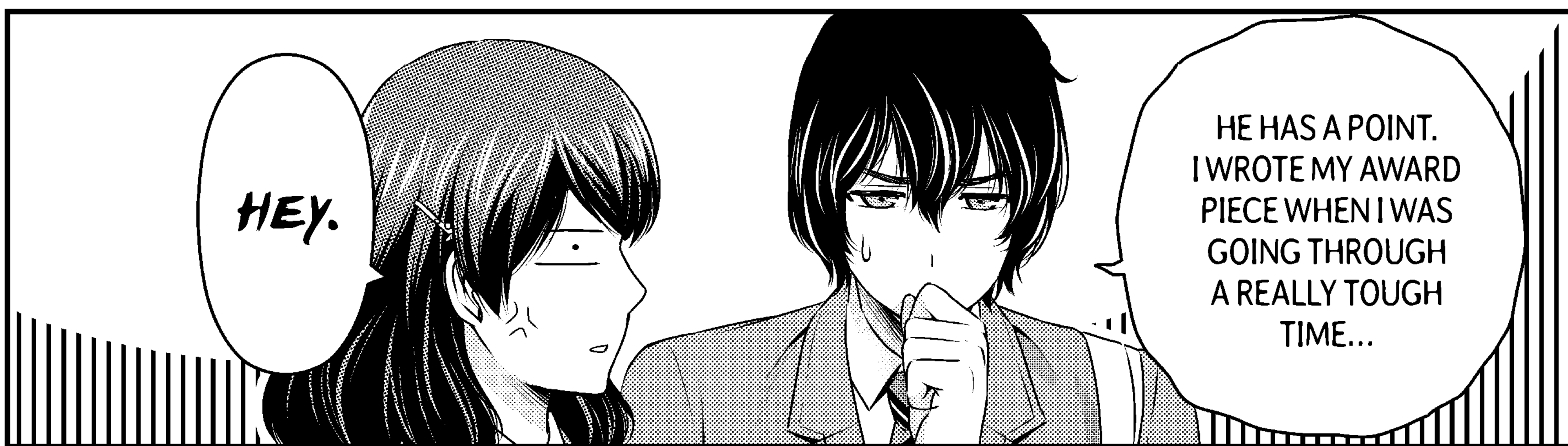
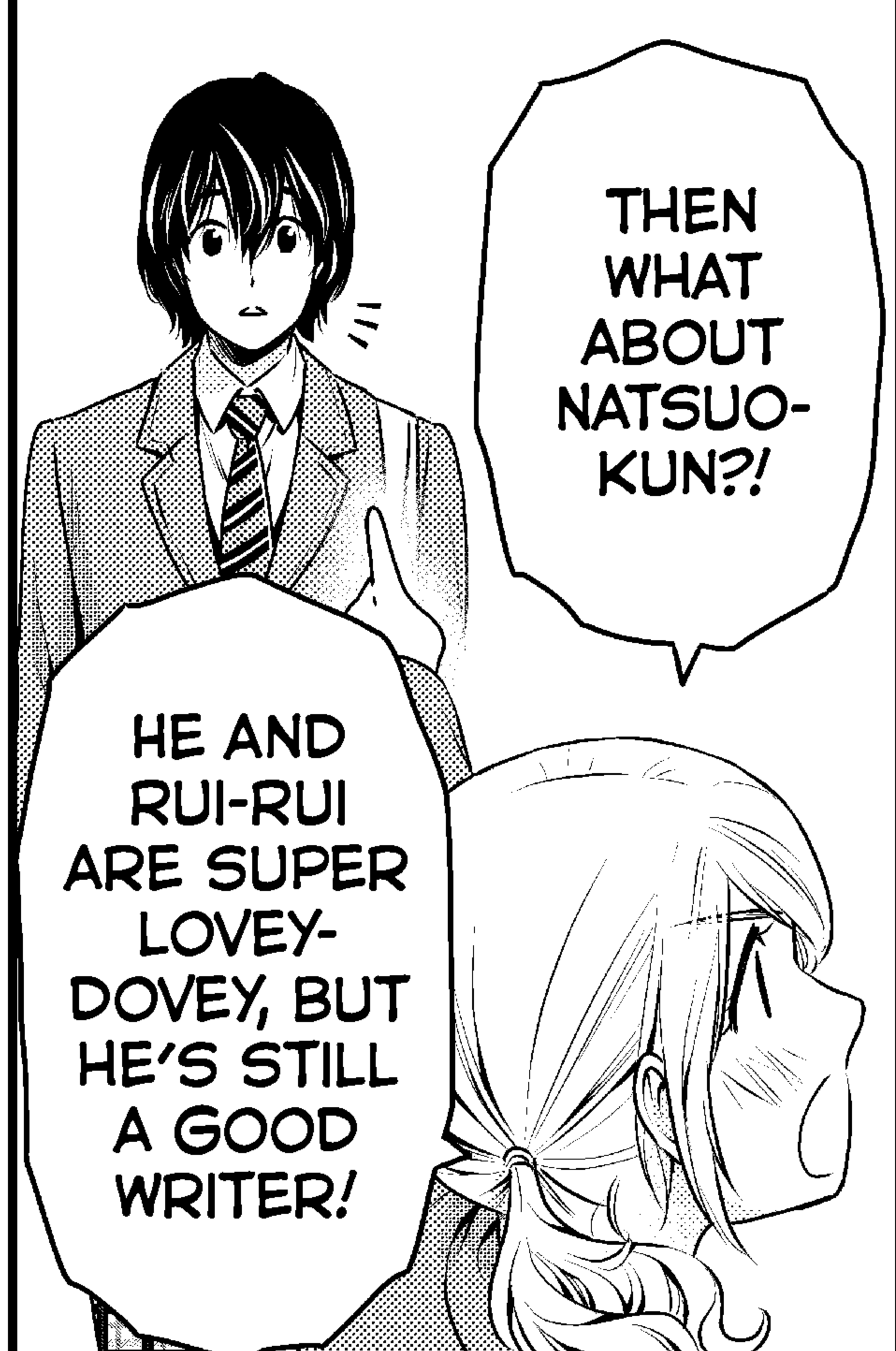
# CHAPTER 137: BIRTH OF A RELATIONSHIP



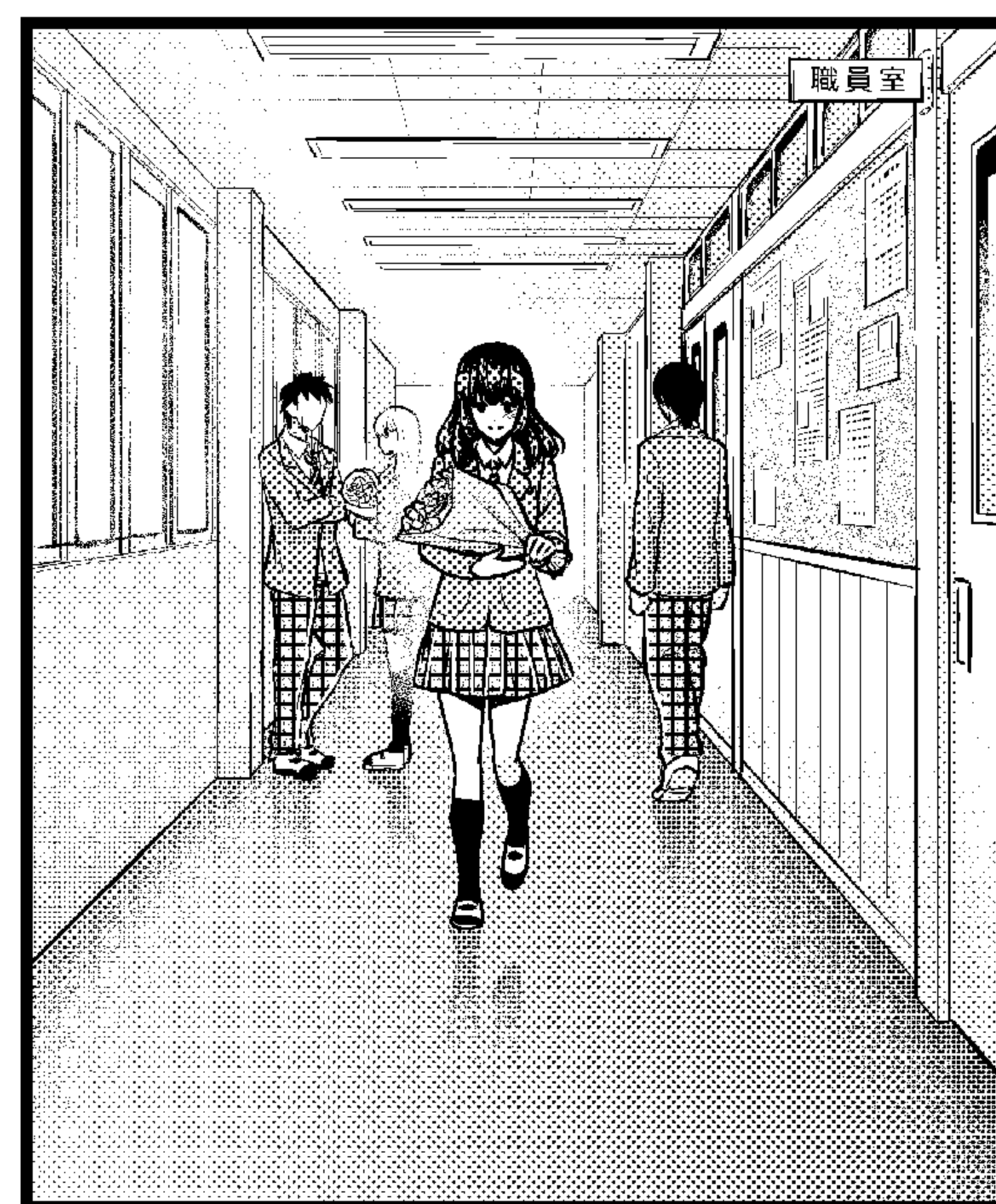
















...GAVE ME THIS SUDDEN CRAVING FOR A CIGARETTE.

SEEING EVERYONE'S SMILING FACES SO FULL OF HOPE...



ASHI-HARA-KUN.

YOU WEREN'T IN THE OFFICE, SO I FIGURED YOU MUST BE HERE.



NORMALLY, I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO GIVES YOU ALL FLOWERS.

WOW, FOR ME?

THANK YOU.



THERE'S A CARD INSIDE, TOO.

UM...

THIS IS FROM THE THIRD-YEARS.



THANK YOU ENOUGH.

I CAN'T ...

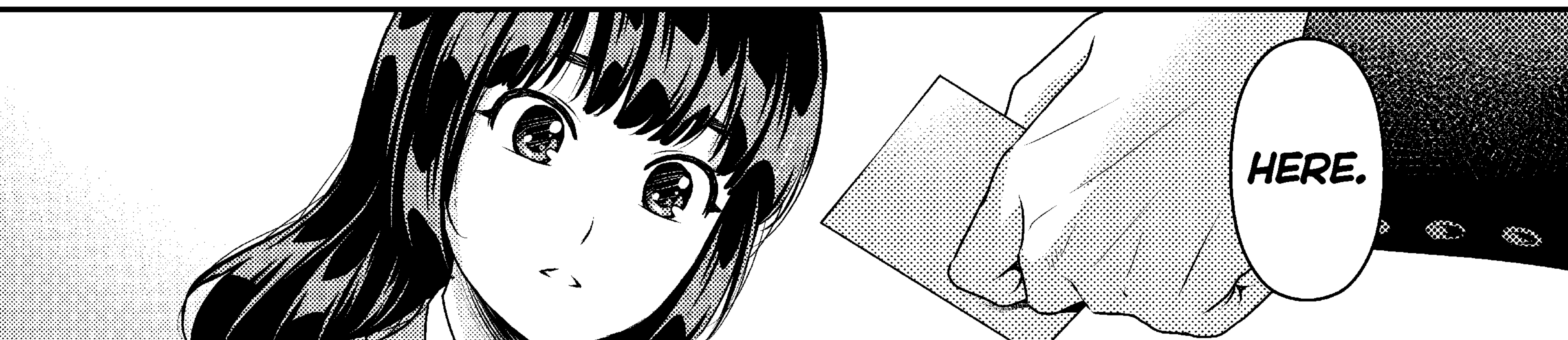


THANKS TO YOU,

MY TIME WITH THE CLUB ENDED UP BEING SOME OF THE MOST FUN I HAD DURING HIGH SCHOOL.

I'M SURE THAT GOES FOR EVERYONE ELSE, TOO.

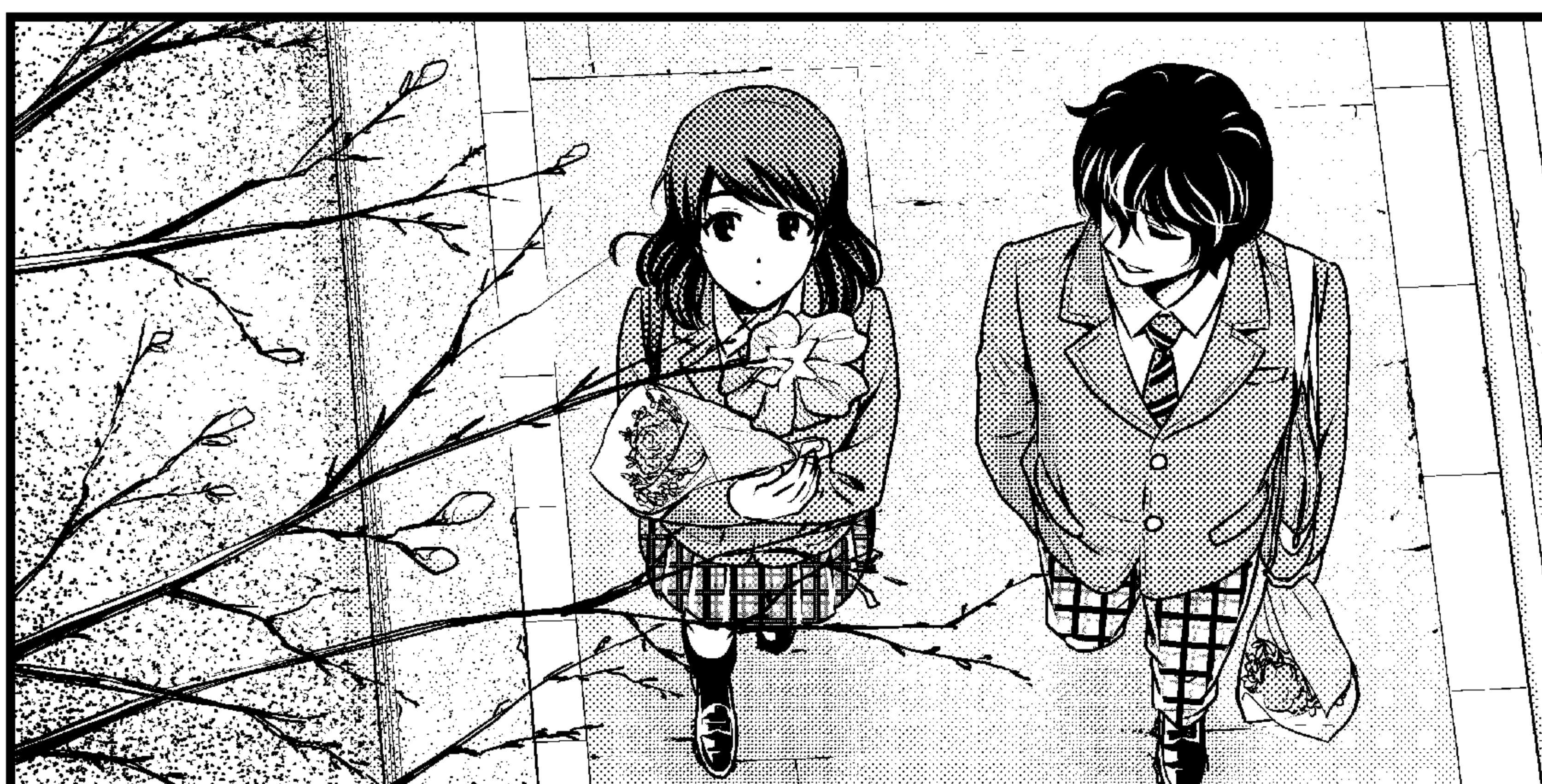
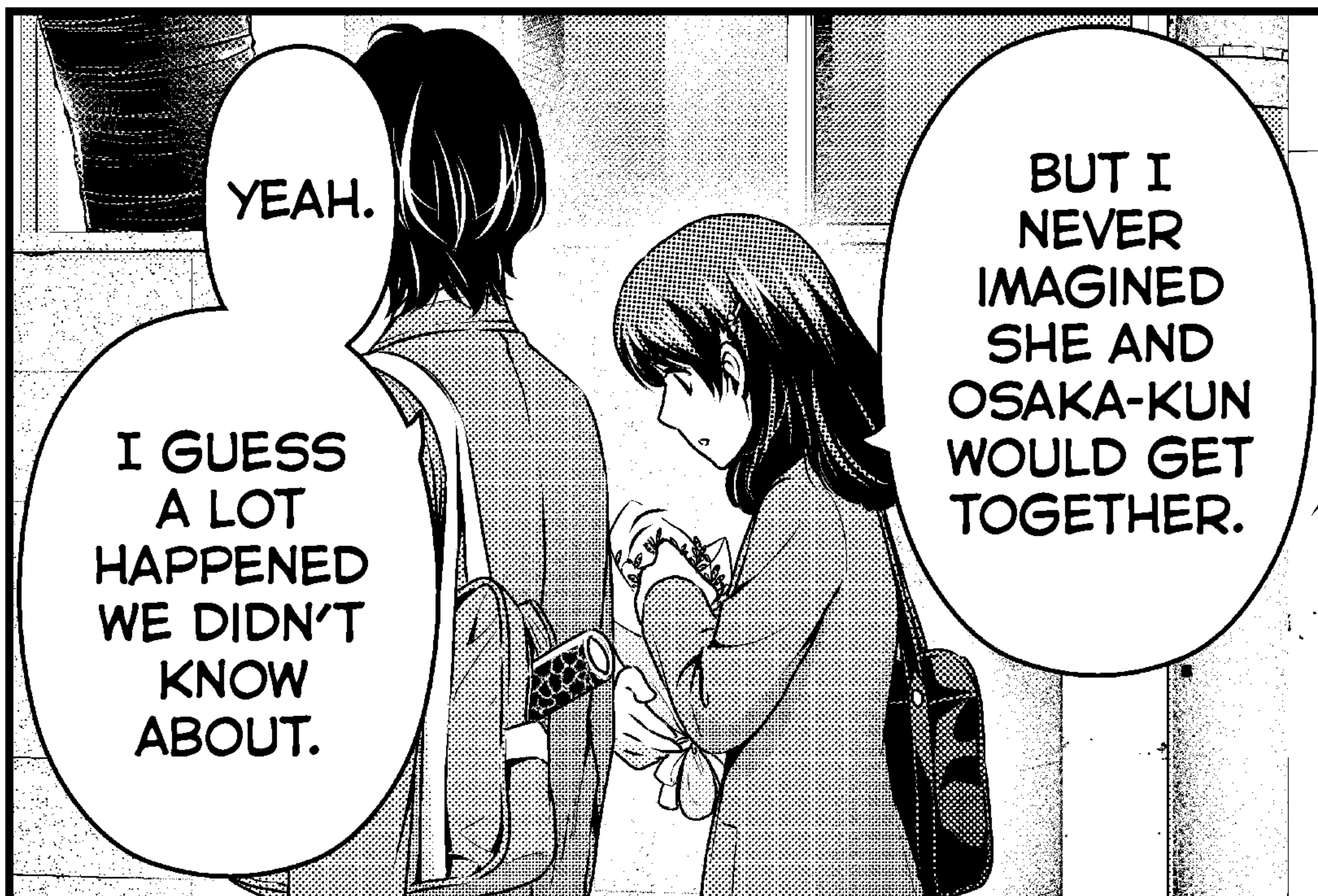




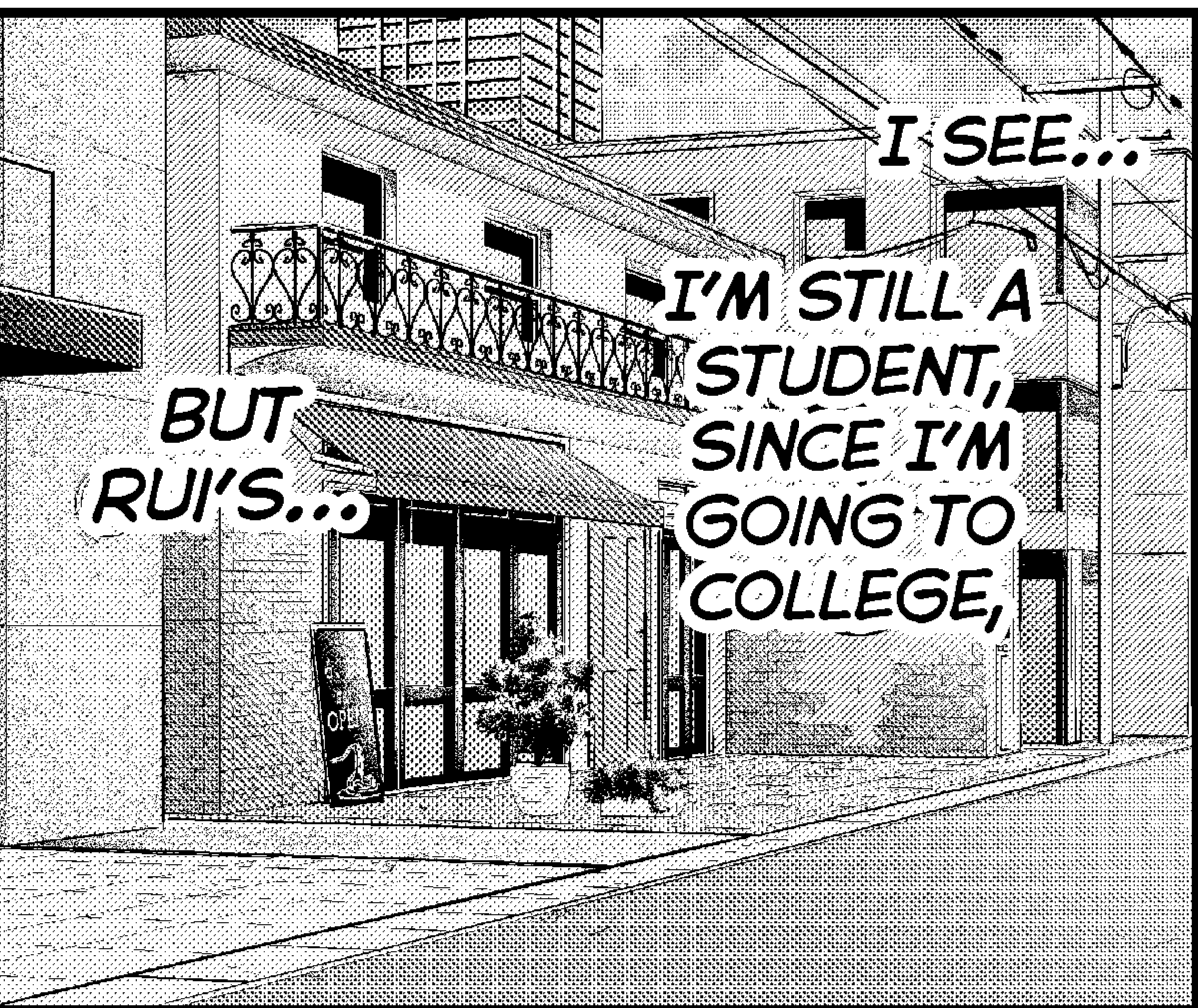




SIGN: AKAMORI HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION CEREMONY







I SEE...

BUT  
RUI'S...

I'M STILL A  
STUDENT,  
SINCE I'M  
GOING TO  
COLLEGE,

...I'M  
A FULL-  
FLEDGED  
MEMBER  
OF SOCI-  
ETY.



FROM  
NOW  
ON...



WHY DON'T  
WE GO HANG  
OUT SOME-  
WHERE?

HEY...



LET'S  
HAVE ONE  
LAST  
AFTER-  
SCHOOL  
DATE.

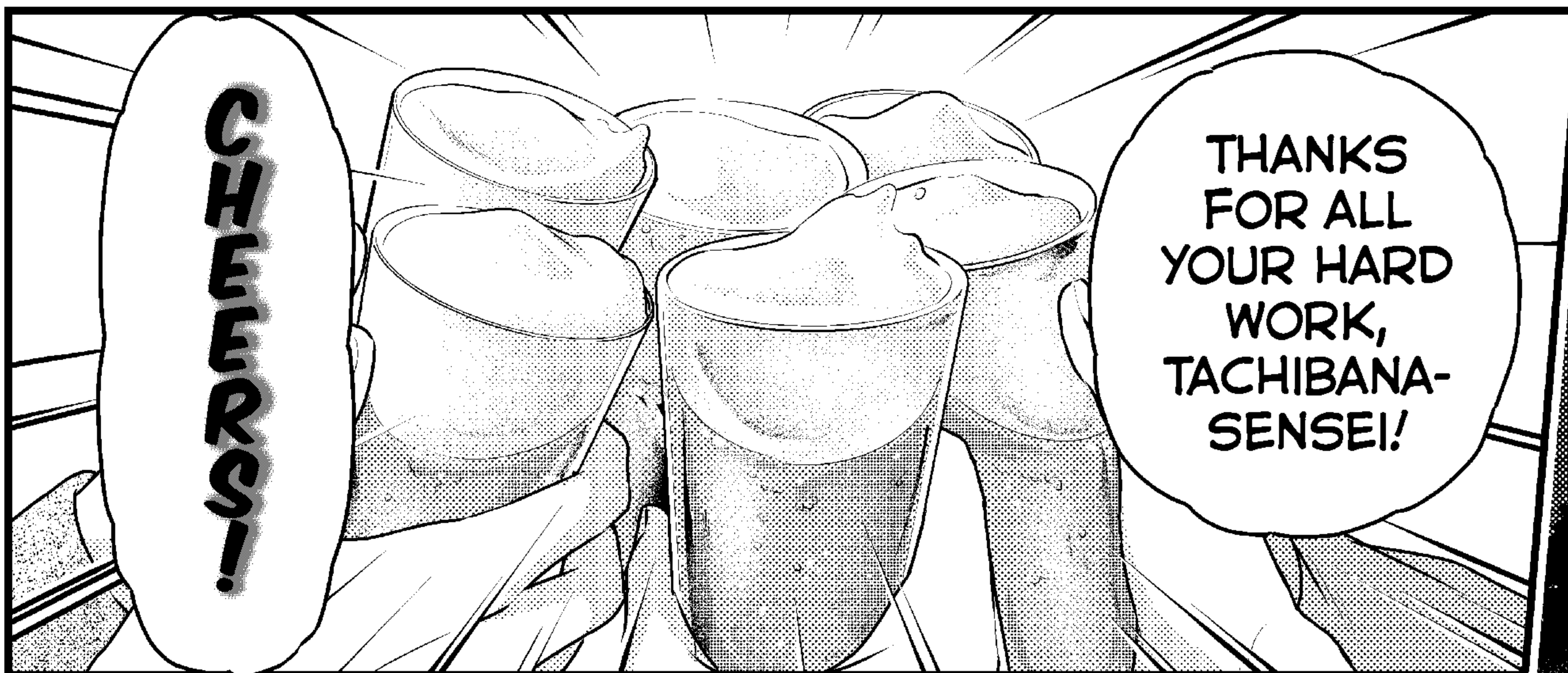


THIS'LL  
PROBABLY  
BE THE  
LAST TIME  
WE GET TO  
WEAR OUR  
UNIFORMS,  
RIGHT?

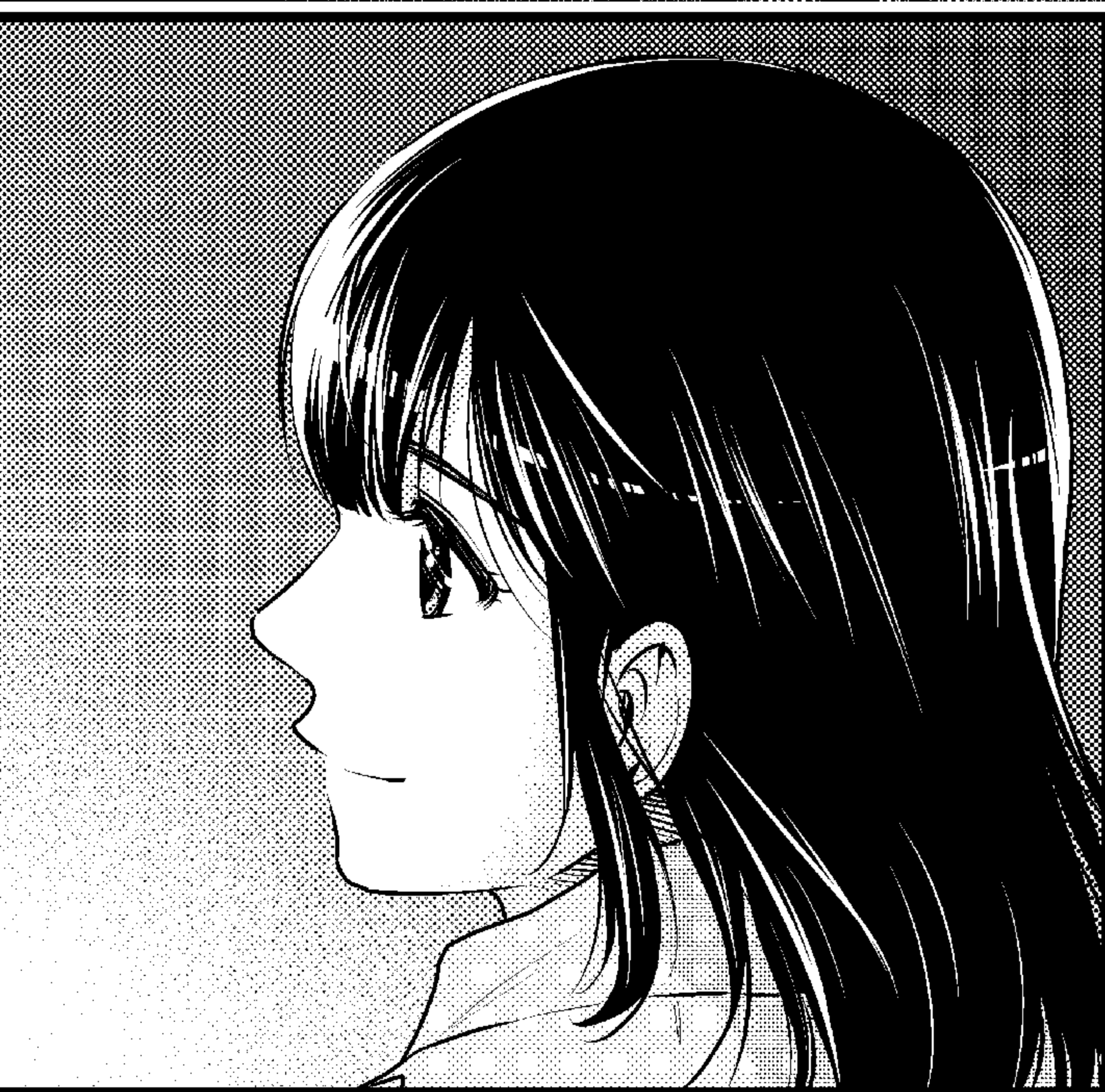
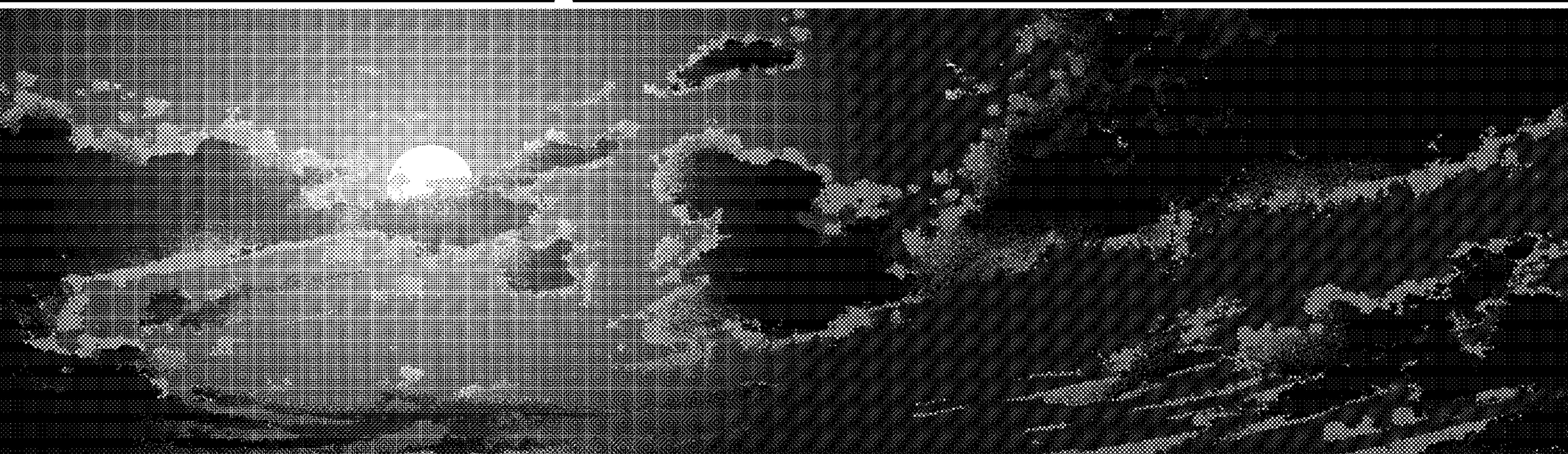
IT FEELS  
LIKE A  
WASTE TO  
JUST GO  
HOME.

HUH  
?

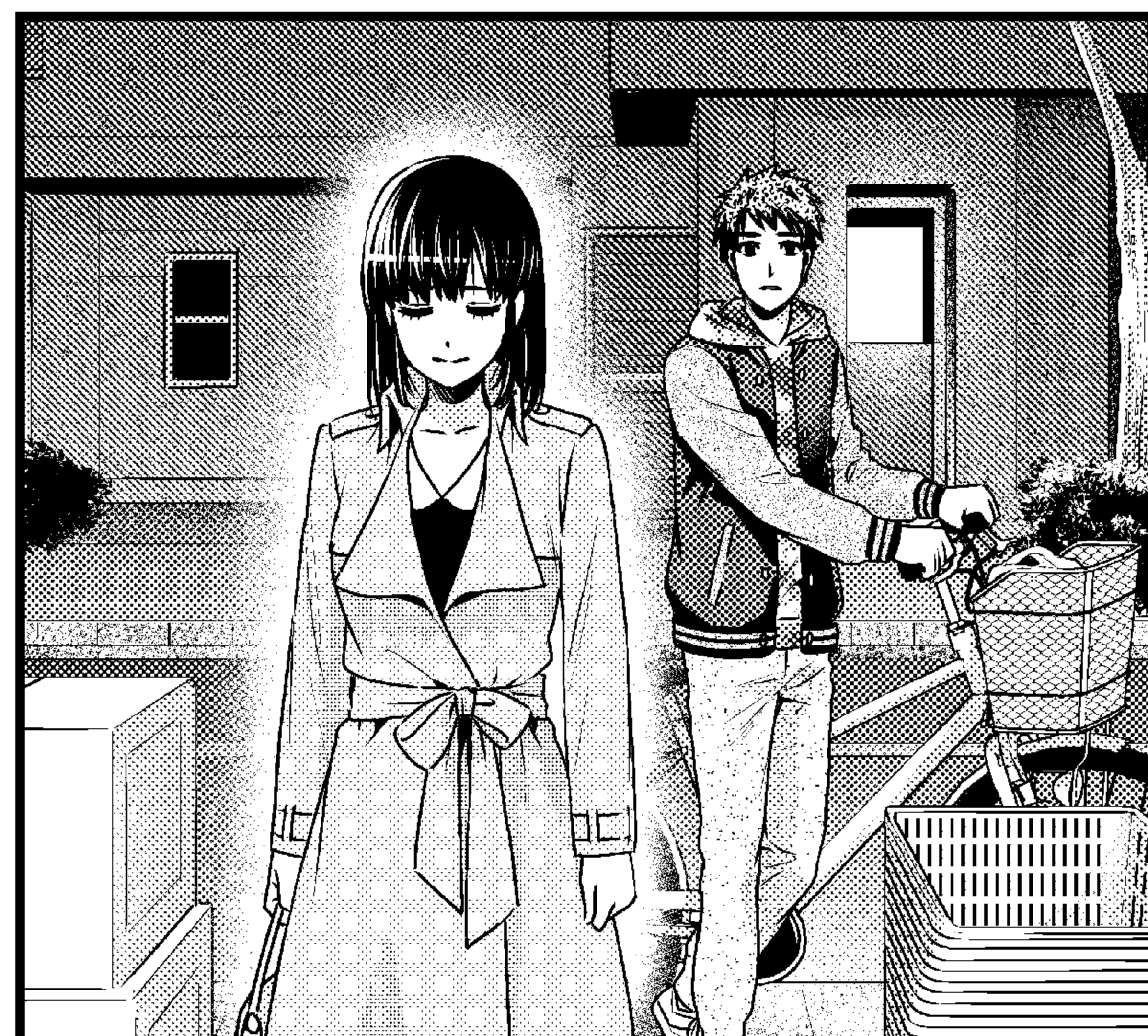
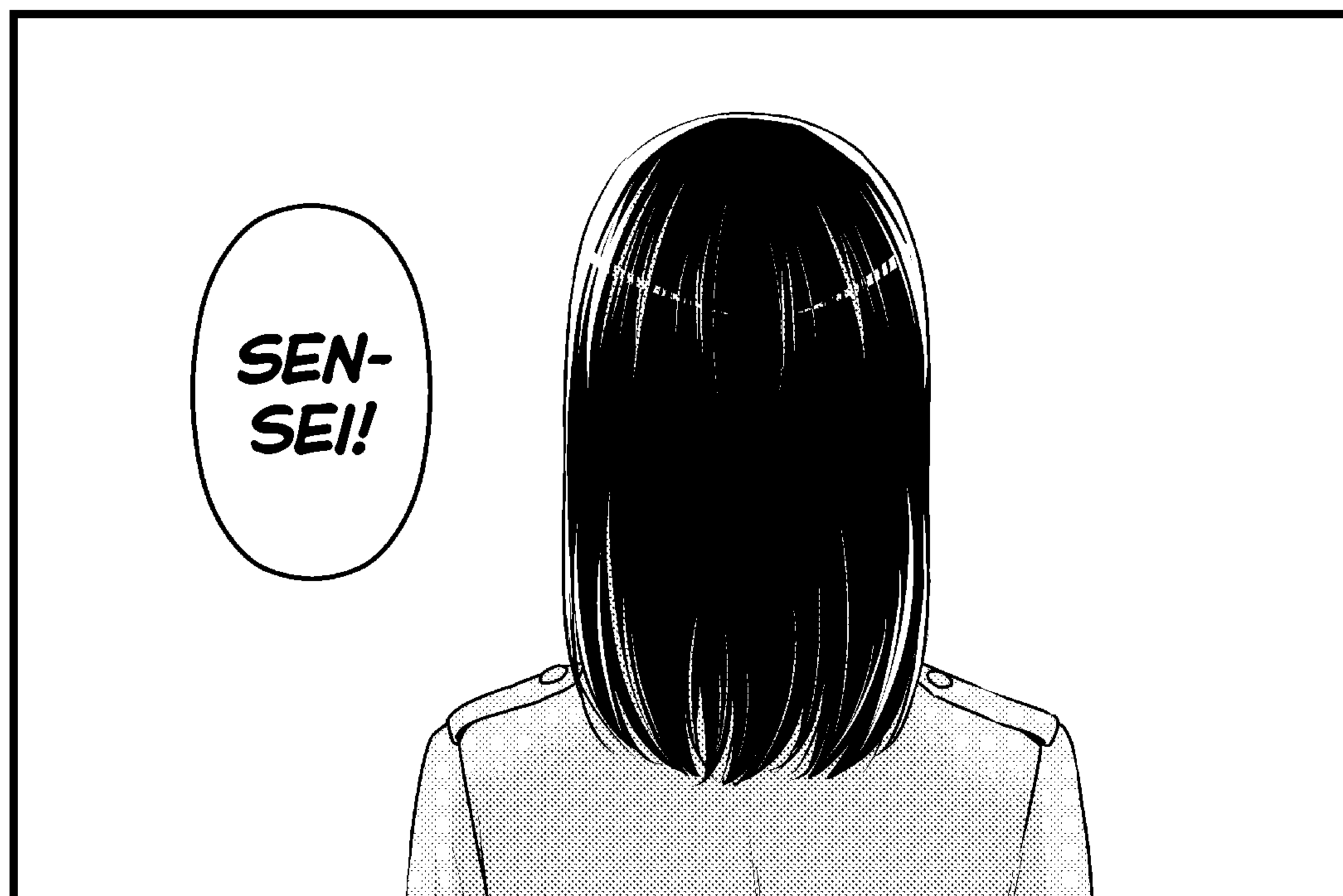




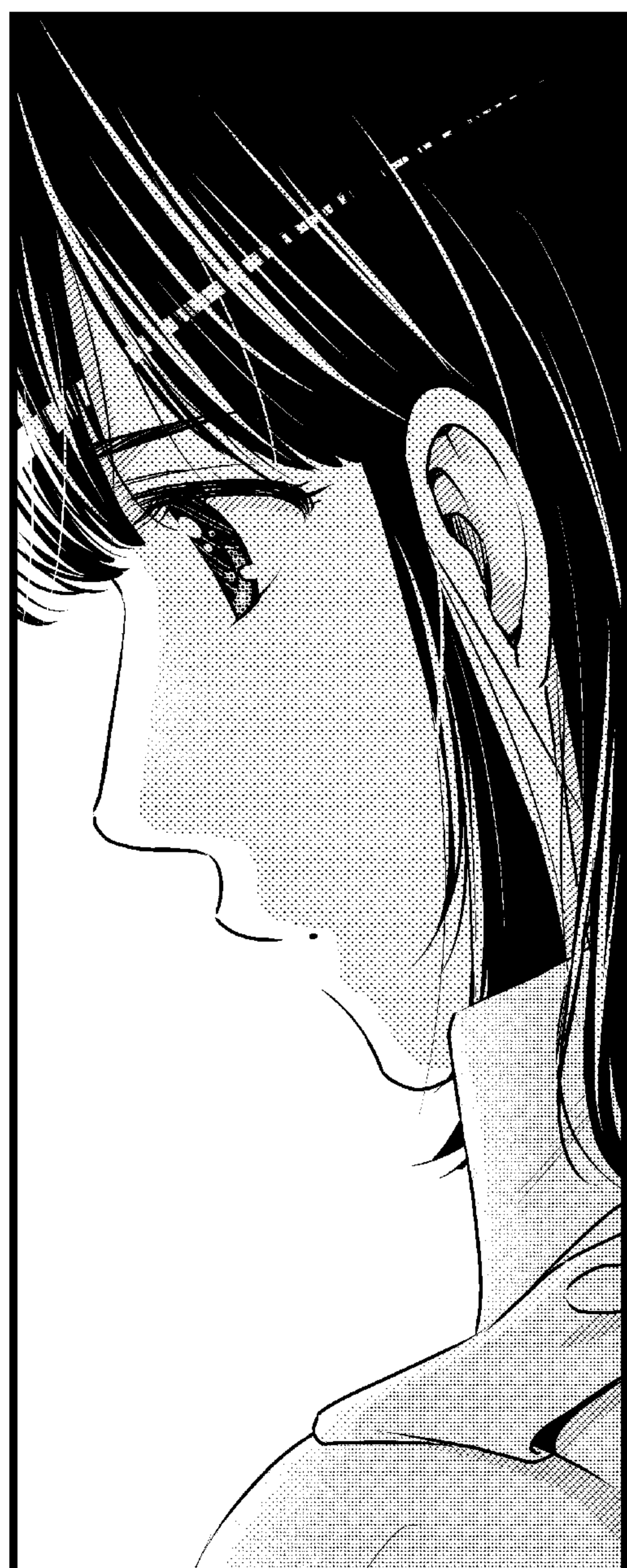
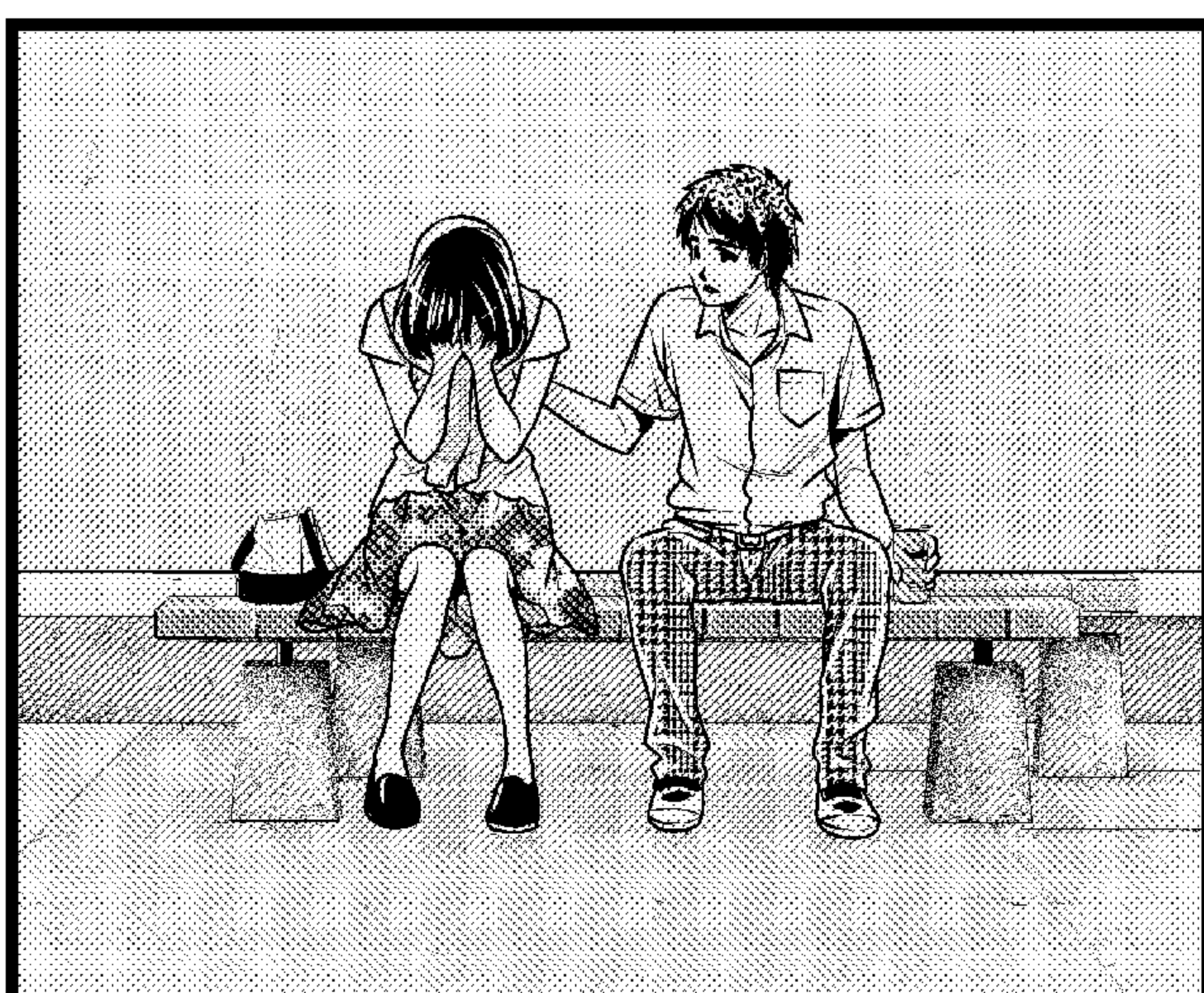
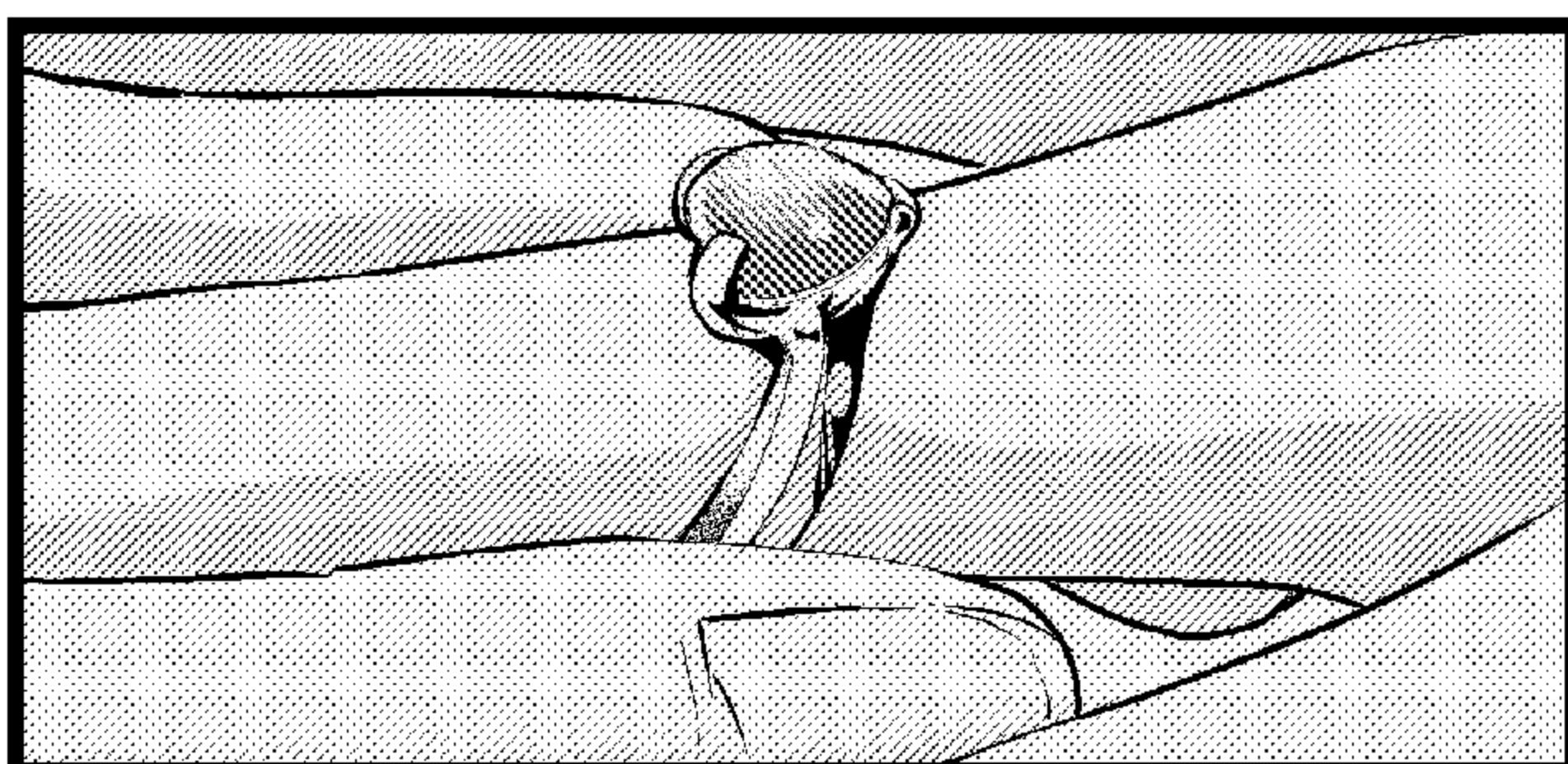
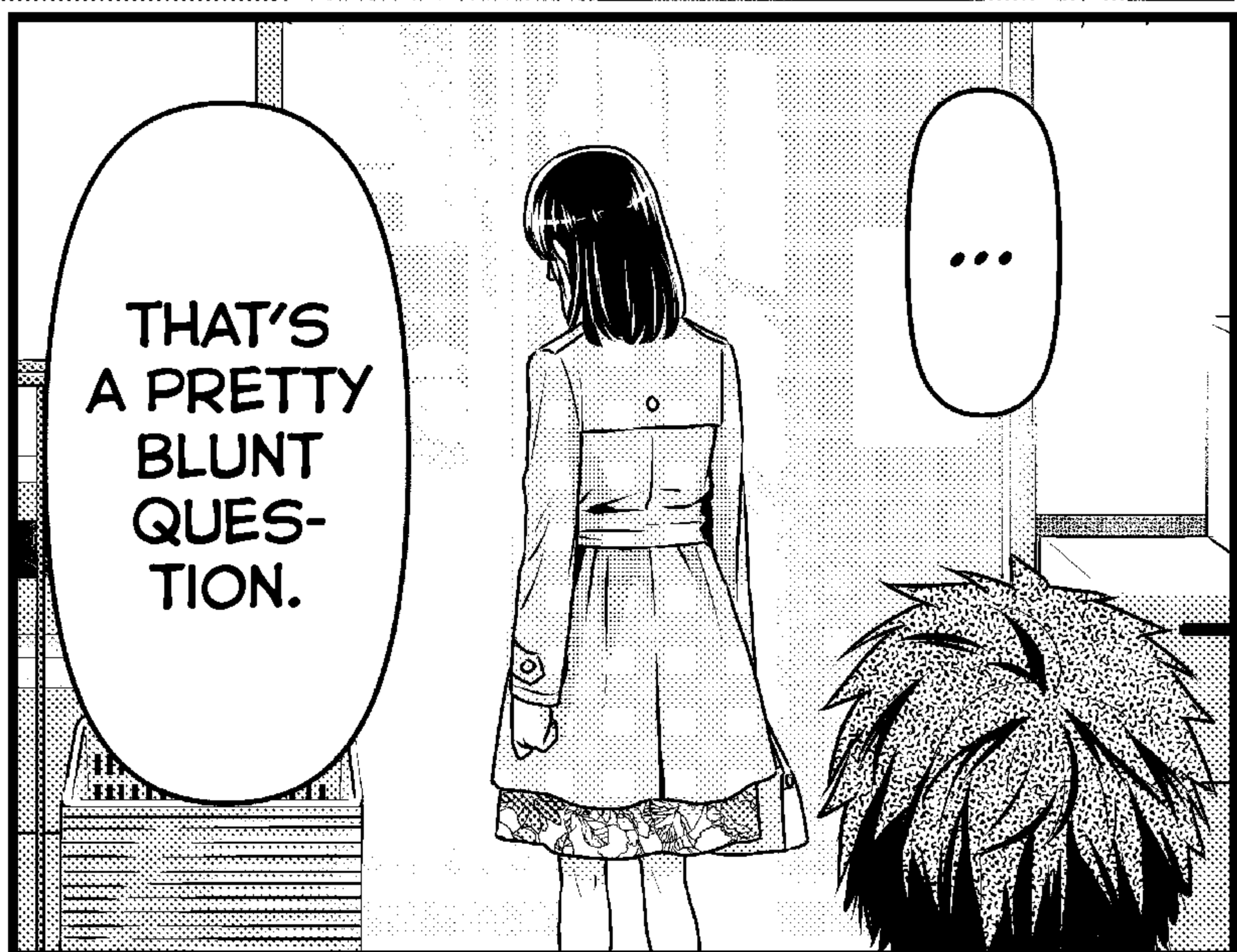
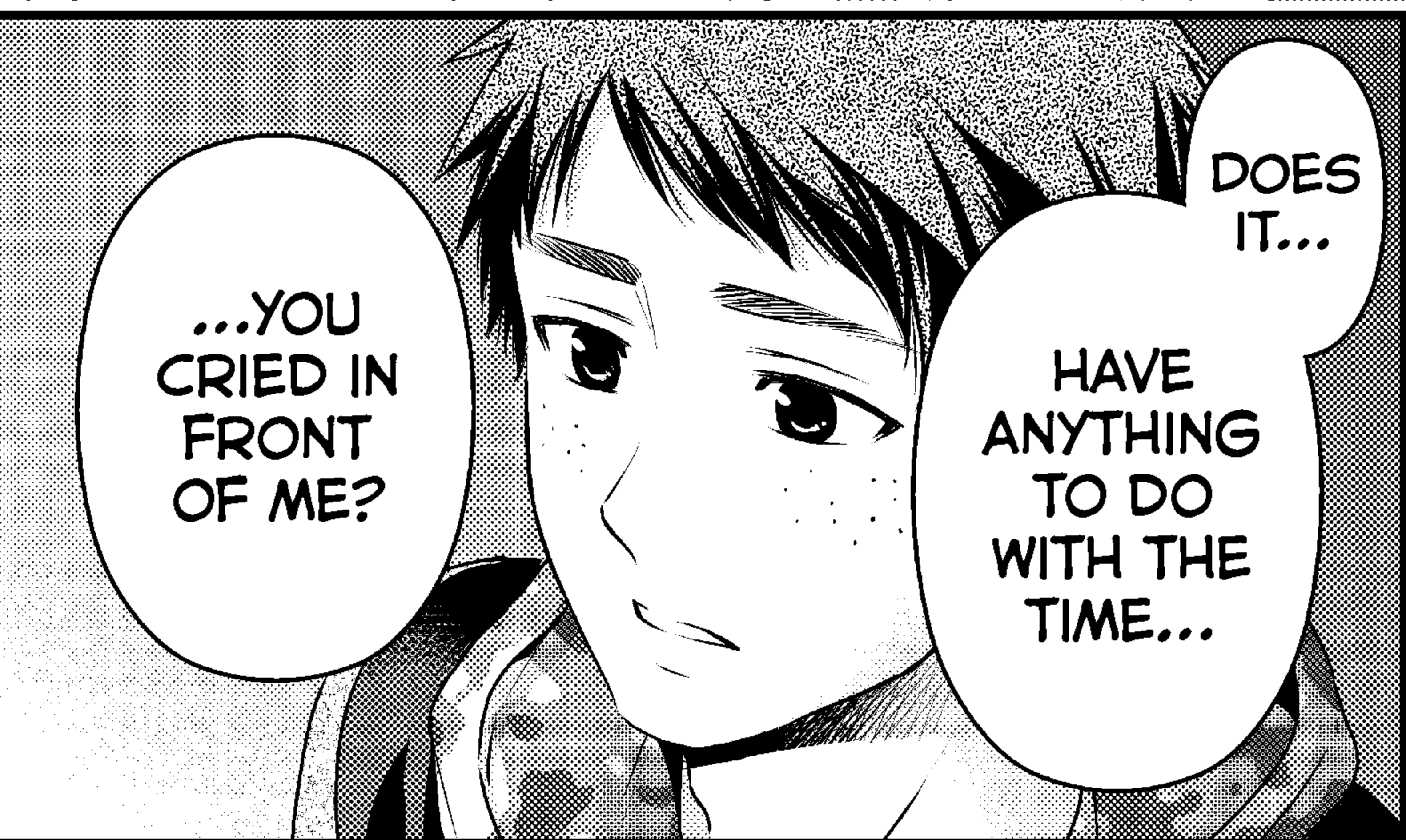
















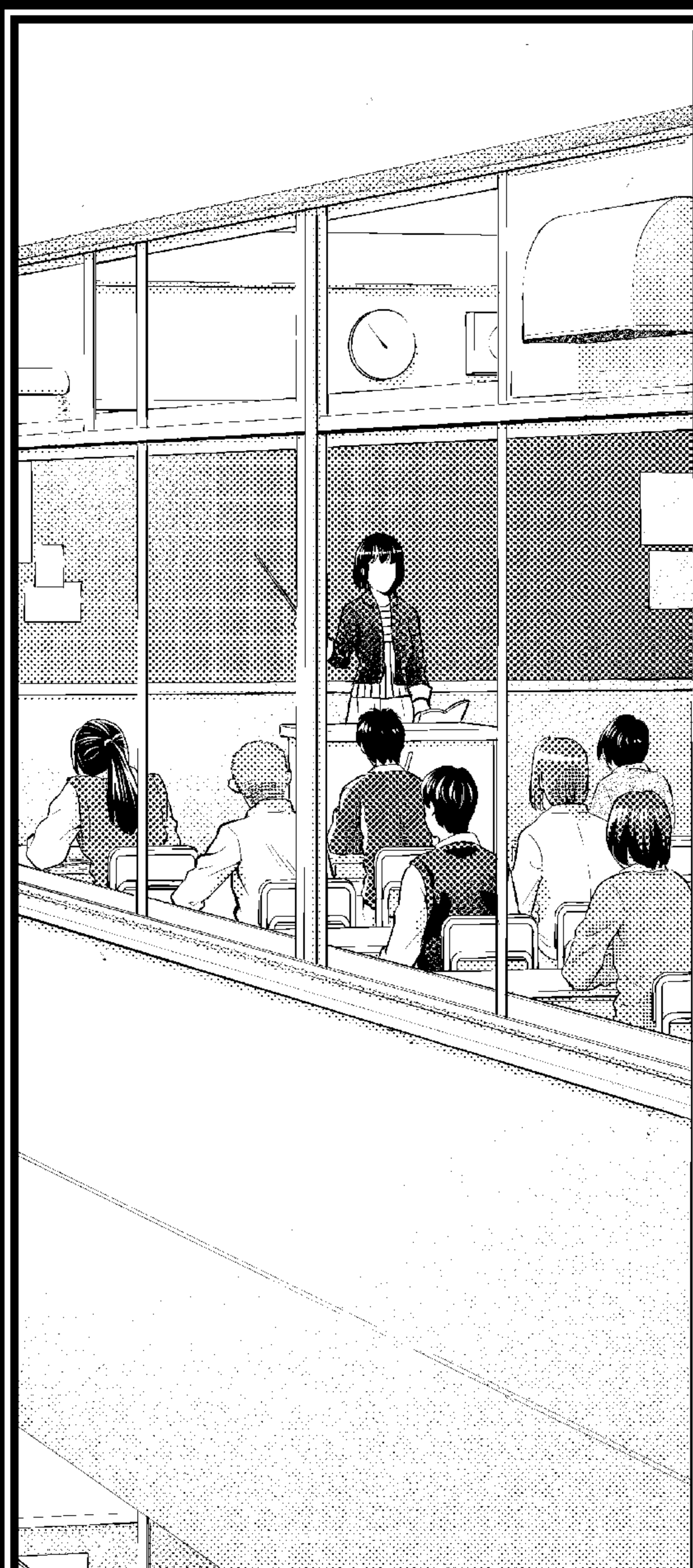
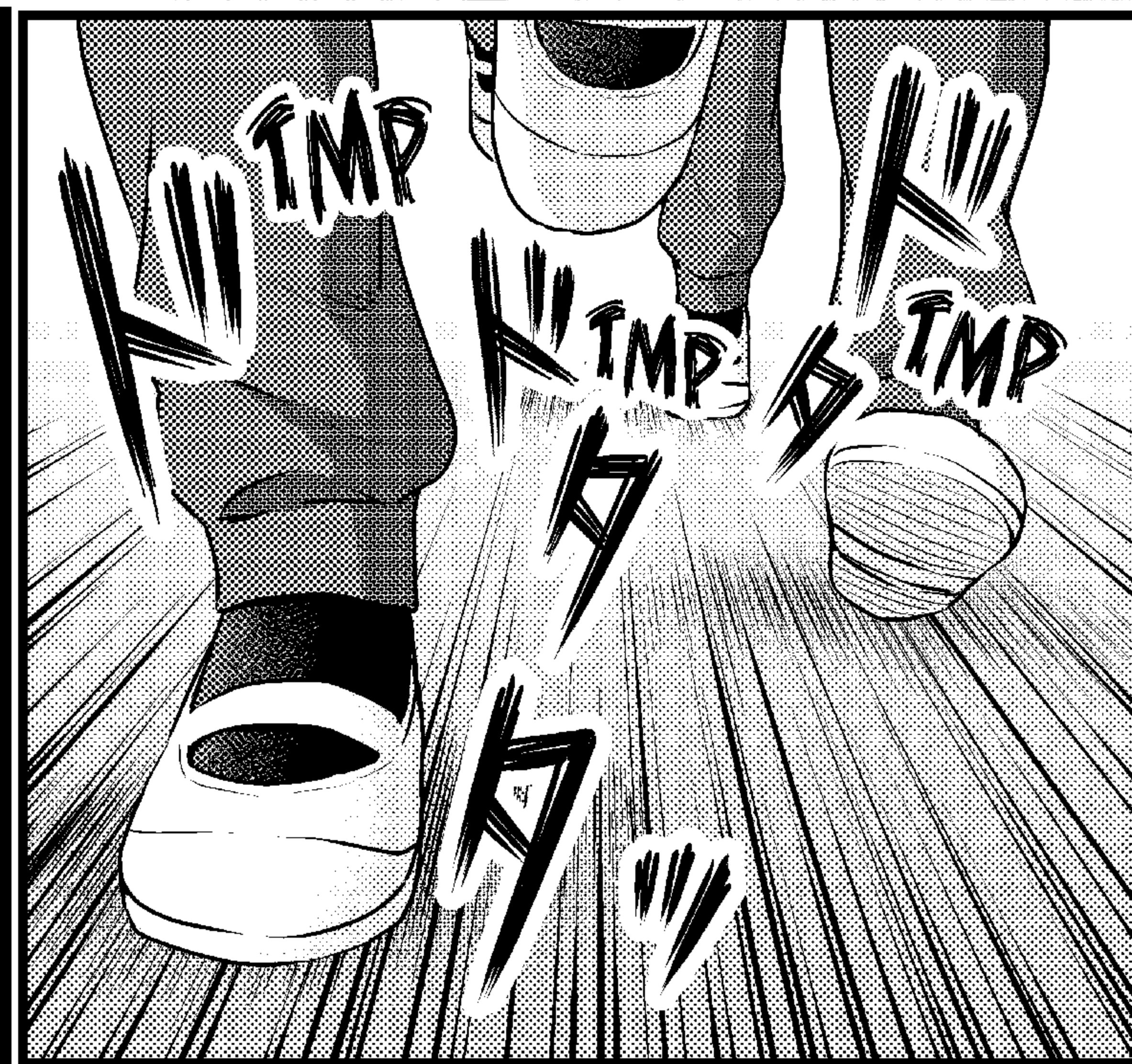
THAT'S  
DEFINITELY  
NOT ALL...



YOU'RE  
GONNA  
KNOCK  
SOMEONE  
OVER!

HEY!

QUIT  
RUNNING  
IN THE  
HALLS!



ALL  
RIGHT  
...

SORRY...



MAKE SURE  
YOU CALL THEM  
OUT, TOO,  
TACHIBANA-  
SENSEI.

THESE KIDS  
RUN WILD  
THE MINUTE  
THEY THINK  
A TEACHER'S  
SOFT.





WERE YOU ASLEEP?!

AH...  
YES?



HEY.

SUZUKI-KUN?

H W U H ?



OKAY!

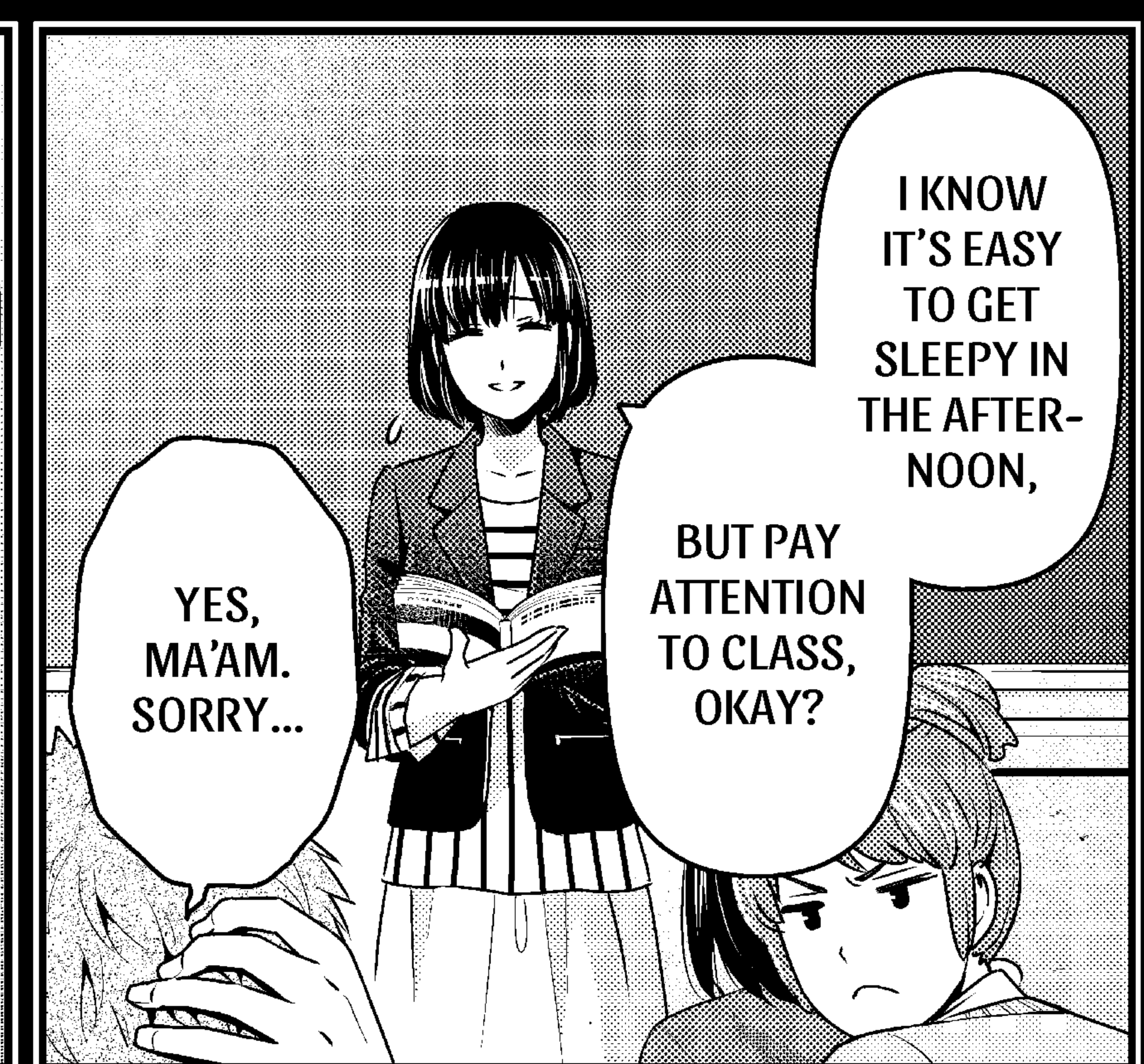
SUZUKI-KUN,

CAN YOU READ FROM THE THIRD PARAGRAPH, PLEASE?



NAMI-SENSEI WOULD NEVER LET ANY STUDENTS SLEEP IN CLASS.

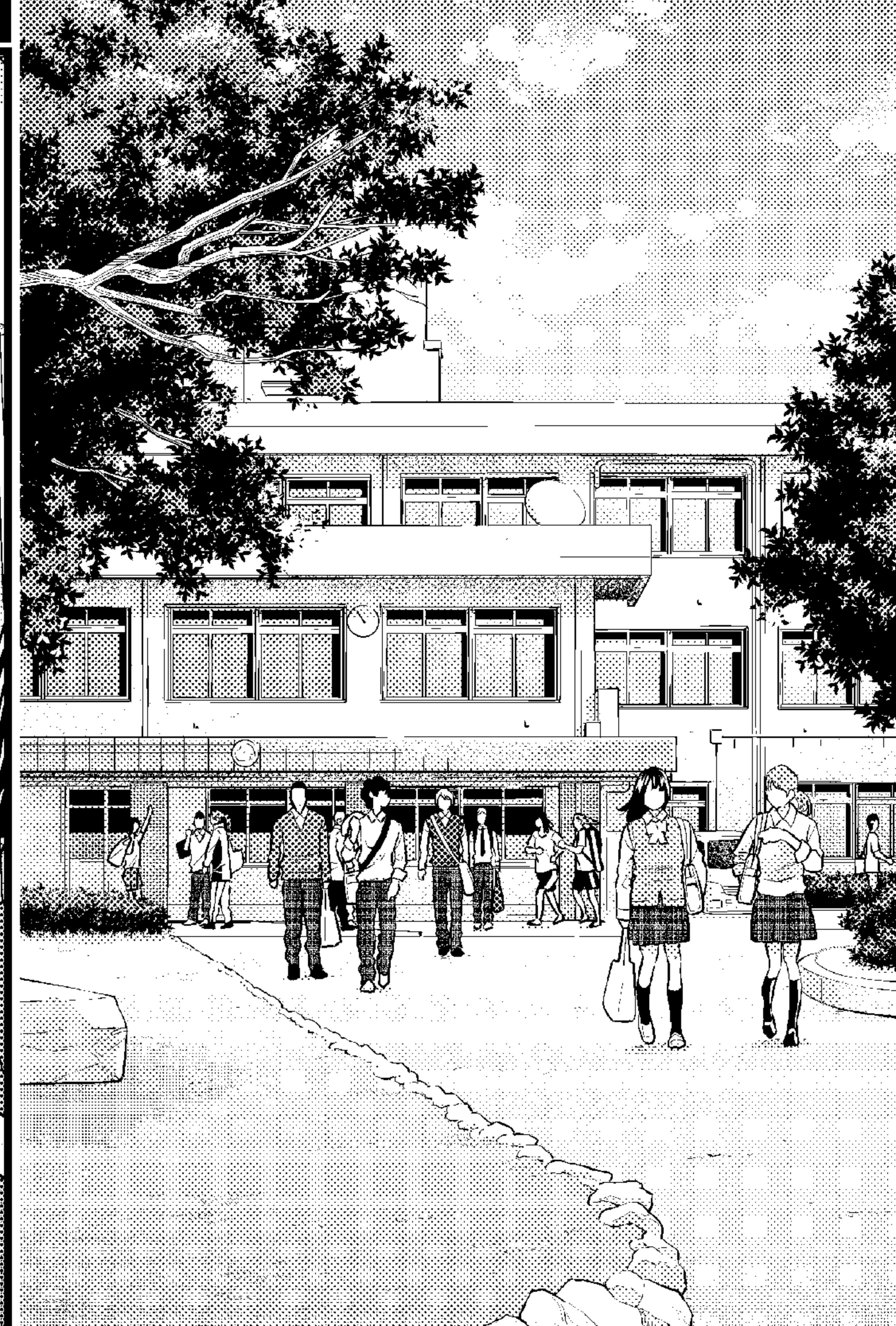
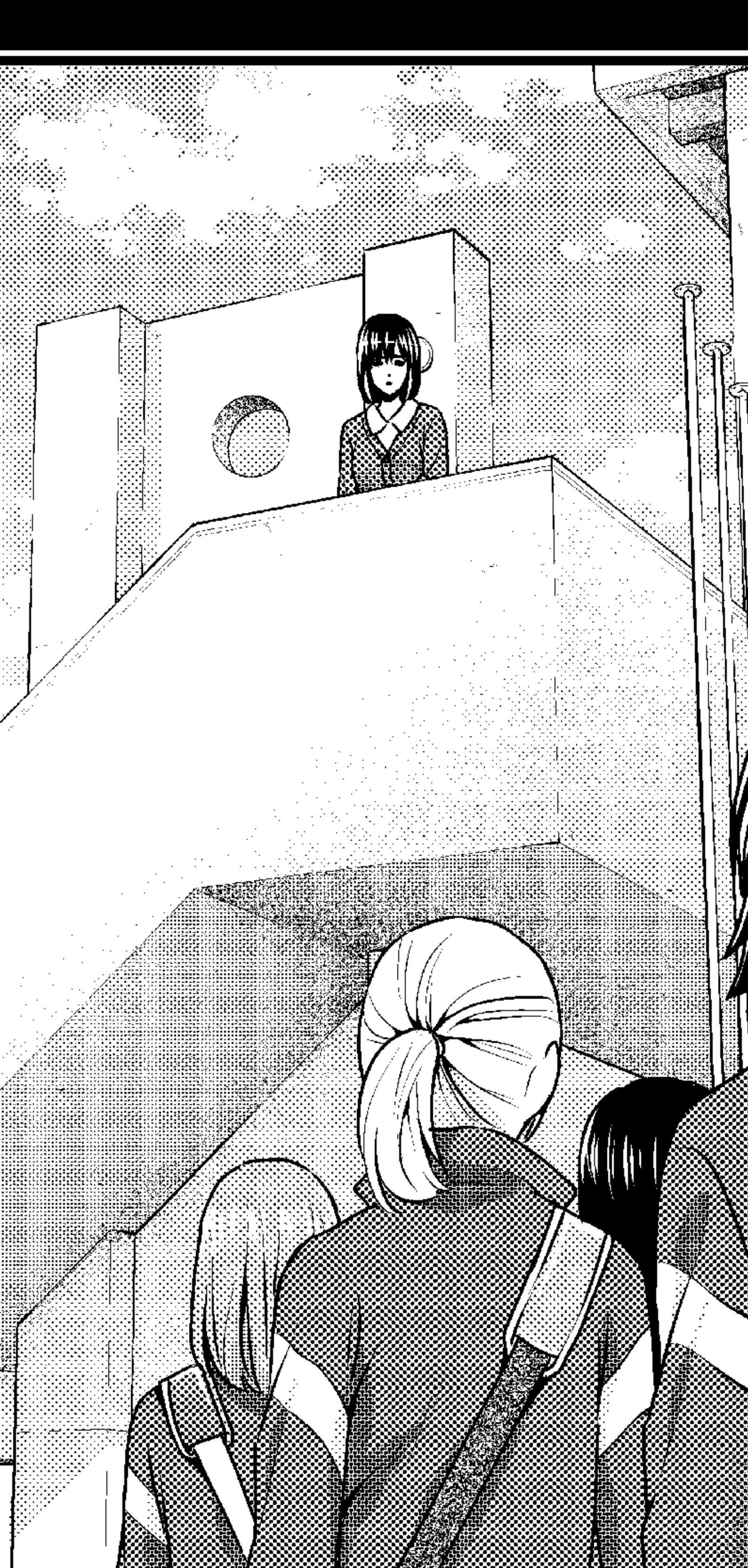
YOU SHOULD CHEW HIM OUT MORE, SENSEI!



YES, MA'AM. SORRY...

BUT PAY ATTENTION TO CLASS, OKAY?

I KNOW IT'S EASY TO GET SLEEPY IN THE AFTER-NOON,

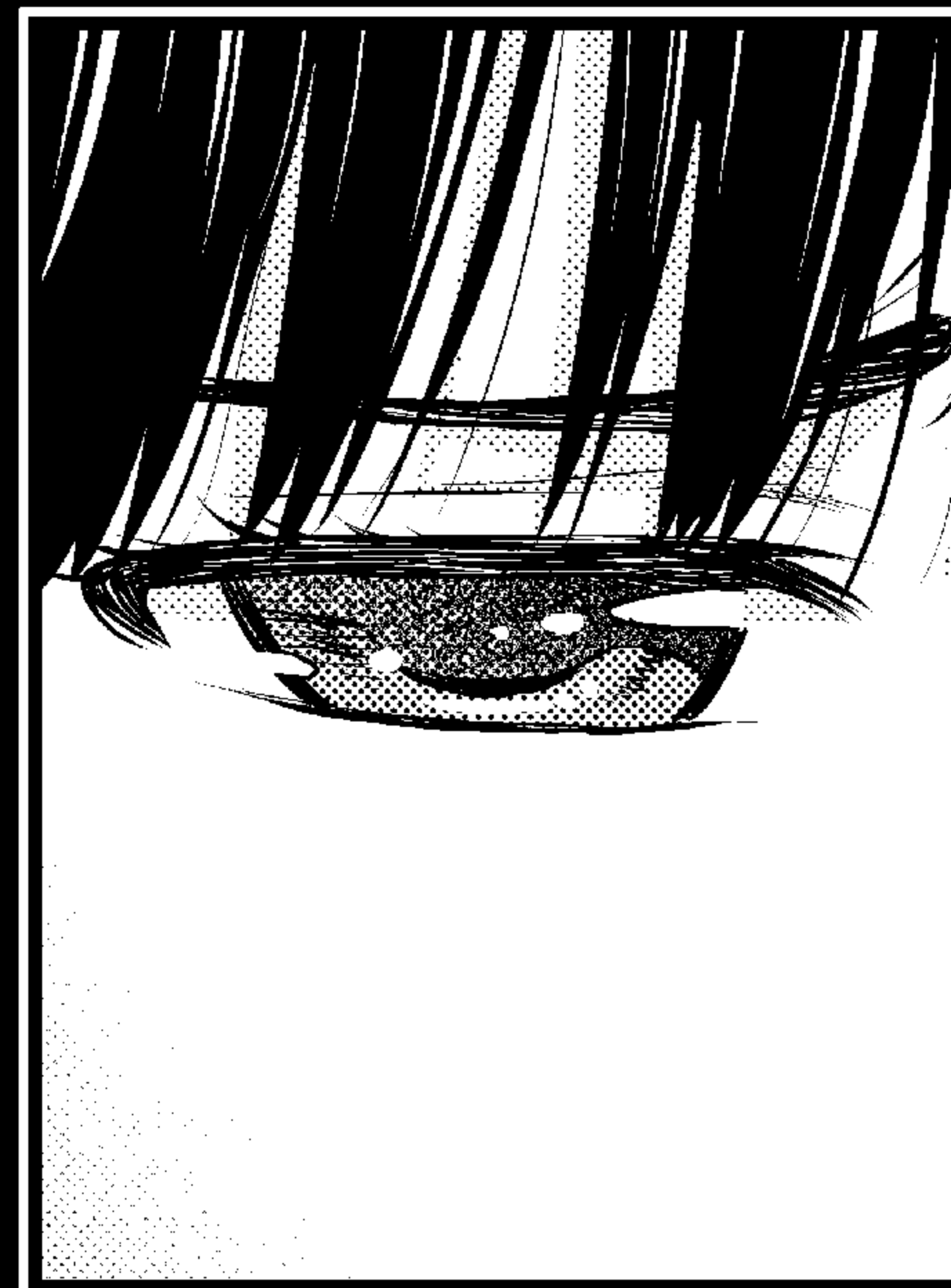
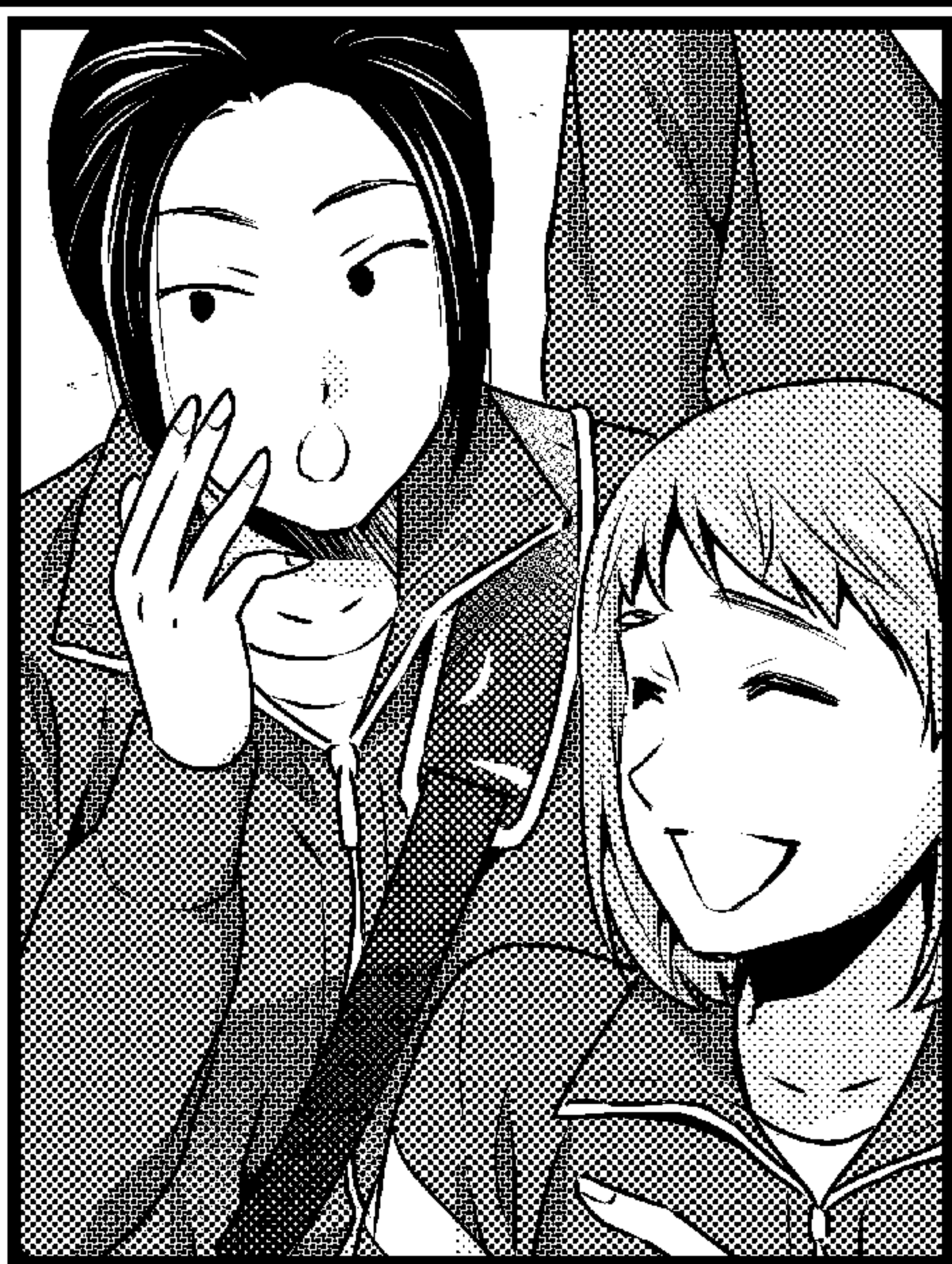


YEAH...





*DO I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO GUIDE MY STUDENTS...  
...AFTER THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE AS A TEACHER?  
AS AN ADULT?*



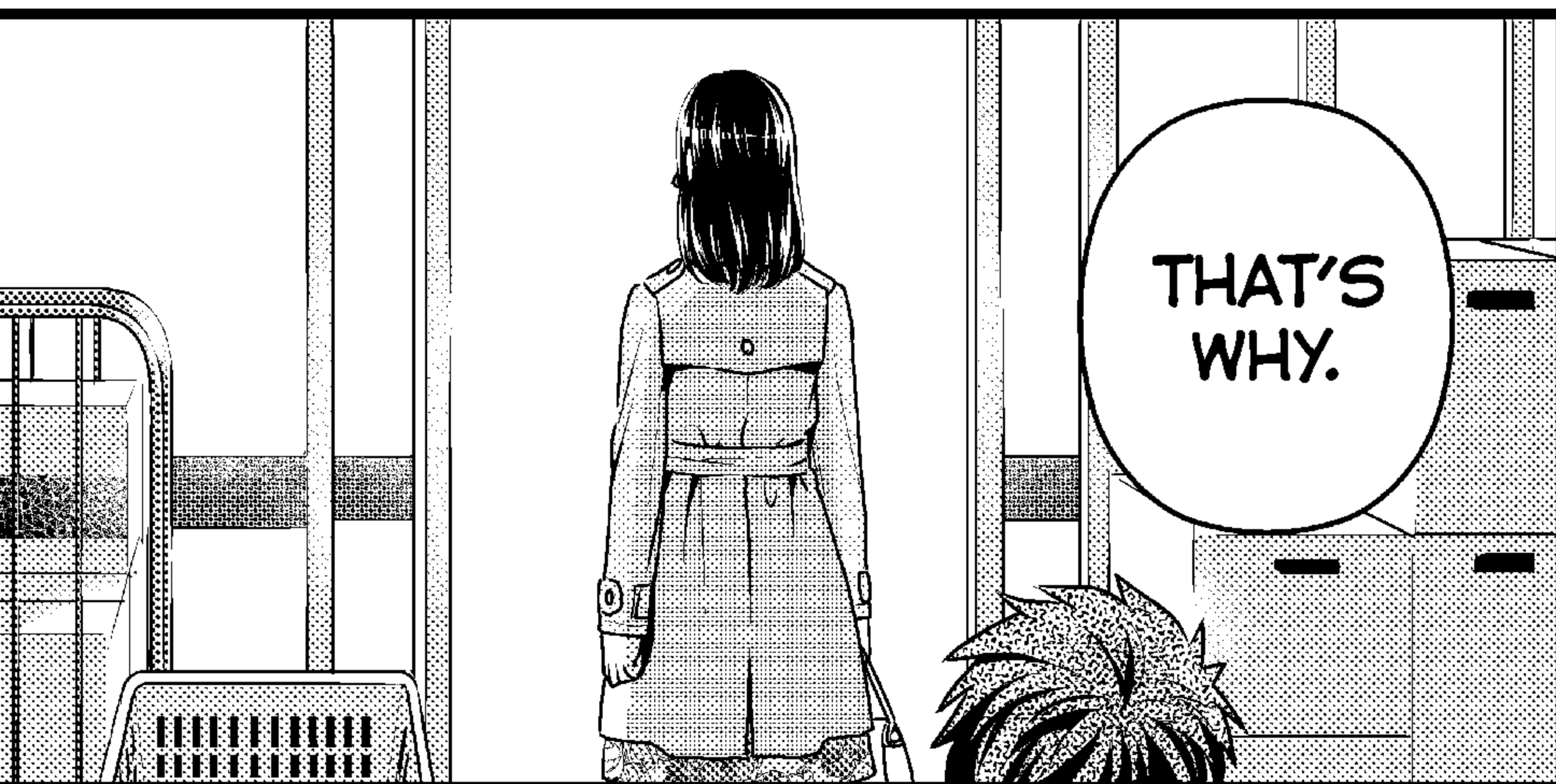
**SORRY.**



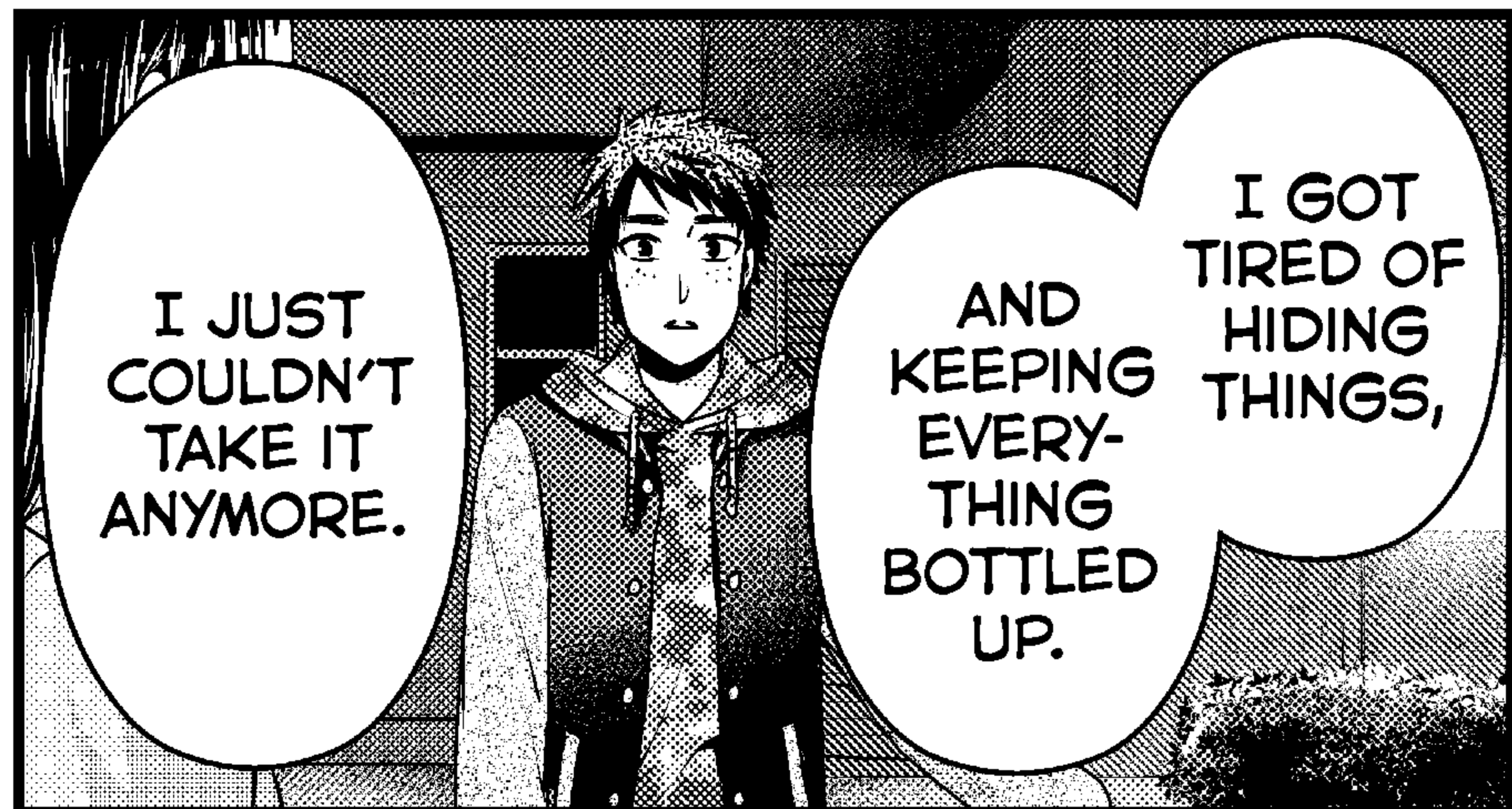
...A  
PRETTY BAD  
TEACHER.



I'M  
ACTUALLY  
...



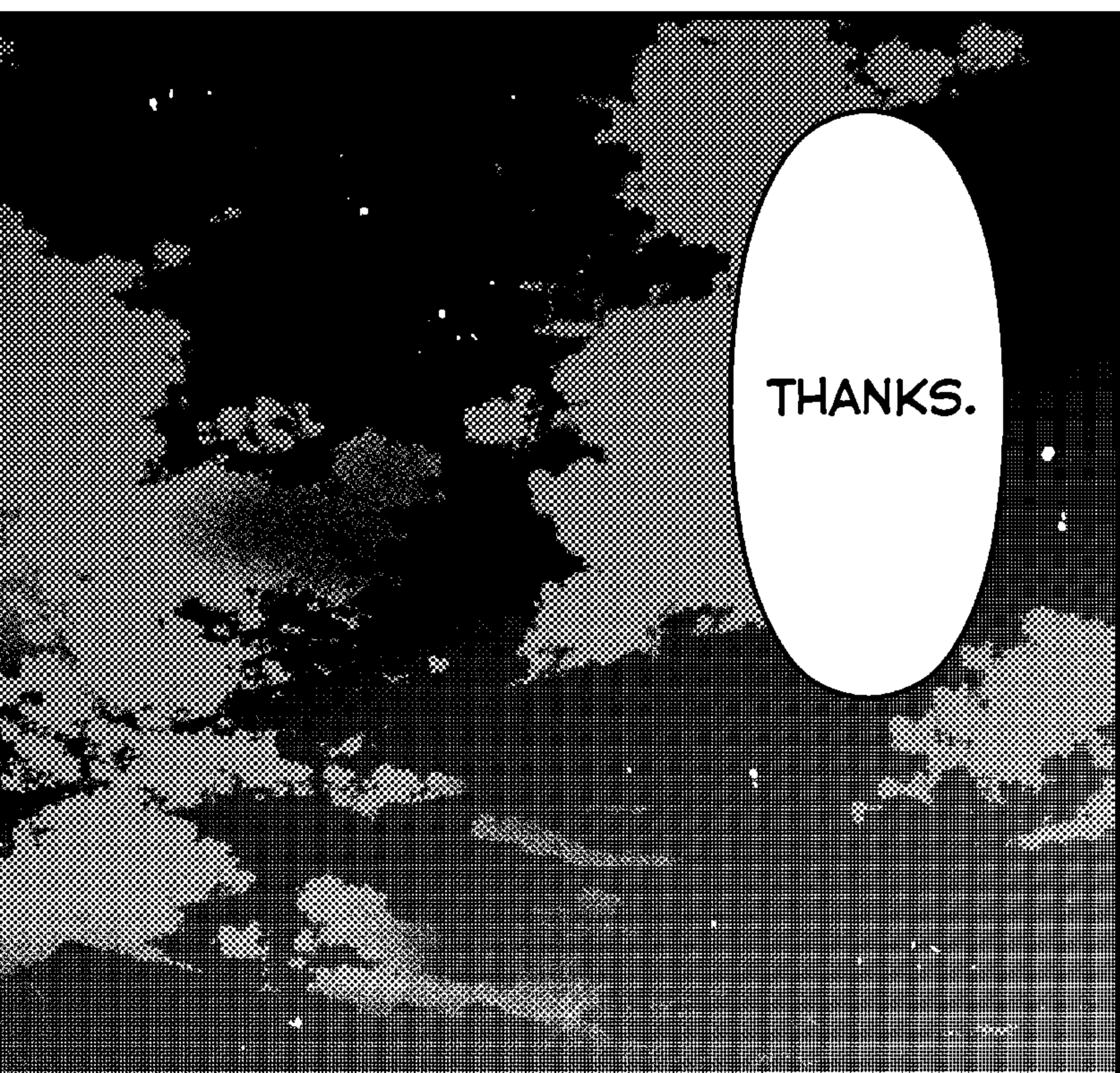
THAT'S  
WHY.



I JUST  
COULDN'T  
TAKE IT  
ANYMORE.

AND  
KEEPING  
EVERY-  
THING  
BOTTLED  
UP.

I GOT  
TIRED OF  
HIDING  
THINGS,



THANKS.



YOU WERE  
A GREAT  
TEACHER,  
SENSEI!

I  
THINK  
...

AND I'M  
SURE  
EVERY-  
ONE ELSE  
DOES,  
TOO!





HM? THE  
HELL'S THAT  
SMELL?

SNIFF  
スニ  
スニ  
スニ



OH-HO...  
I COULDN'T  
FIND HIM ON  
ANY SOCIAL  
MEDIA SITES,

Literary  
Award

General  
Category

**Natsuo Fujii**  
"Well, See You"

BUT TO  
THINK  
HIS NAME  
WOULD  
POP UP  
LIKE  
THIS.



CURRY  
YOUKAN\*.

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
EATING,  
KINASHI?

YOU  
ALWAYS  
EAT THE  
WEIRDEST  
SHIT...



茗治大学 和泉キャンパス  
Meiji U Izumi Campus

\*YOUKAN: A TYPE OF JAPANESE JELLIED CONFECTION MADE OF RED BEAN PASTE, AGAR, AND SUGAR.



**WE  
DEFINITELY  
CAN'T LET  
THIS ONE  
GET AWAY.**



HELLO!

WELCOME  
BACK,  
HINA-CHAN!  
WE'VE BEEN  
WAITING  
FOR YOU!

IT'S  
GOOD TO  
BE BACK.  
LONG TIME  
NO SEE,  
RUI.

OH,  
STOP IT.  
THIS IS  
YOUR  
HOME,  
HINA.

I'M  
HOME.

AROUND  
NOON,  
I THINK.

WHEN  
ARE THE  
MOVERS  
COMING?

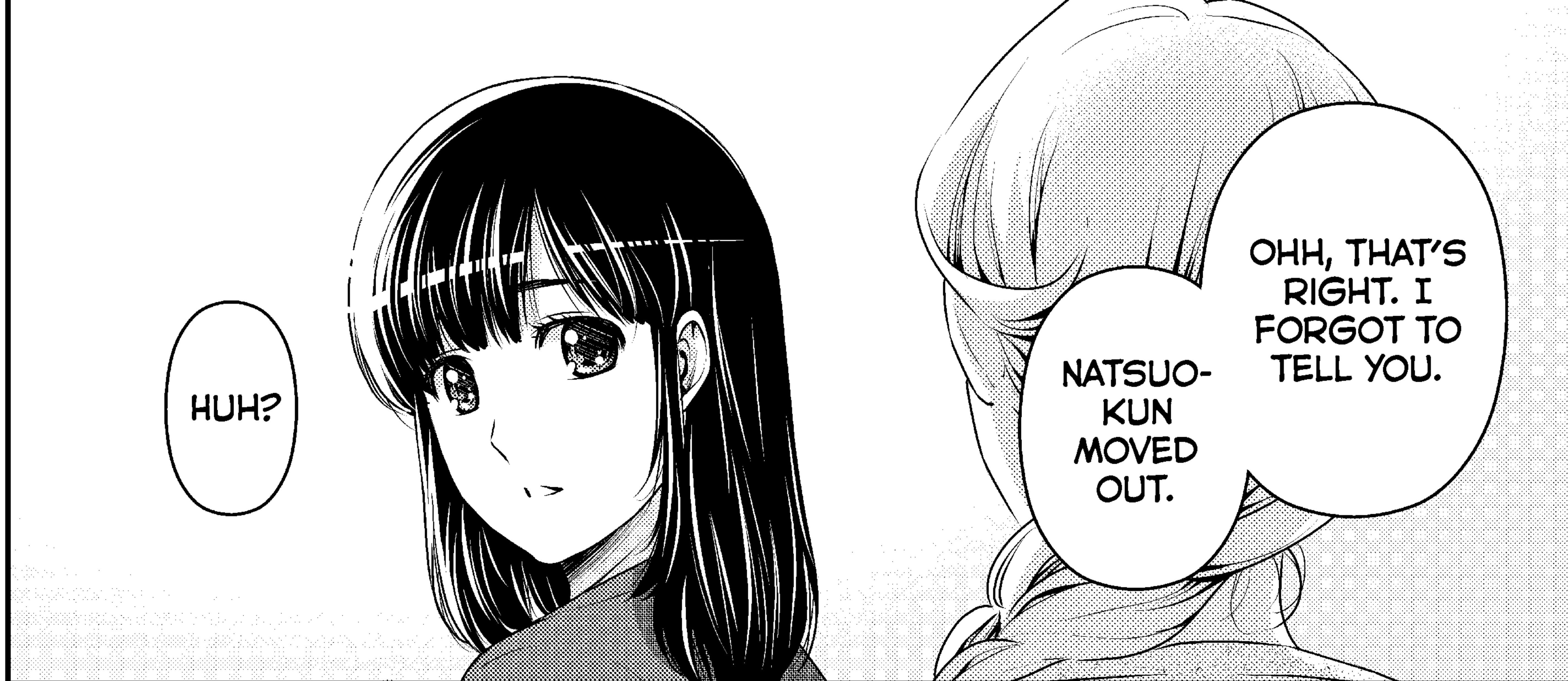
THANKS  
FOR LETING  
ME MOVE  
BACK IN.

WHERE'S  
NATSUO-  
KUN?

I WANNA  
ASK THE  
GUYS TO  
HELP PUT IT  
TOGETHER  
IF IT DOES.

THE  
ASSEMBLY  
FURNITURE  
I BOUGHT  
ONLINE MIGHT  
GET HERE  
SOONER  
THAN THAT.





HUH?

NATSUO-  
KUN  
MOVED  
OUT.

OHH, THAT'S  
RIGHT. I  
FORGOT TO  
TELL YOU.

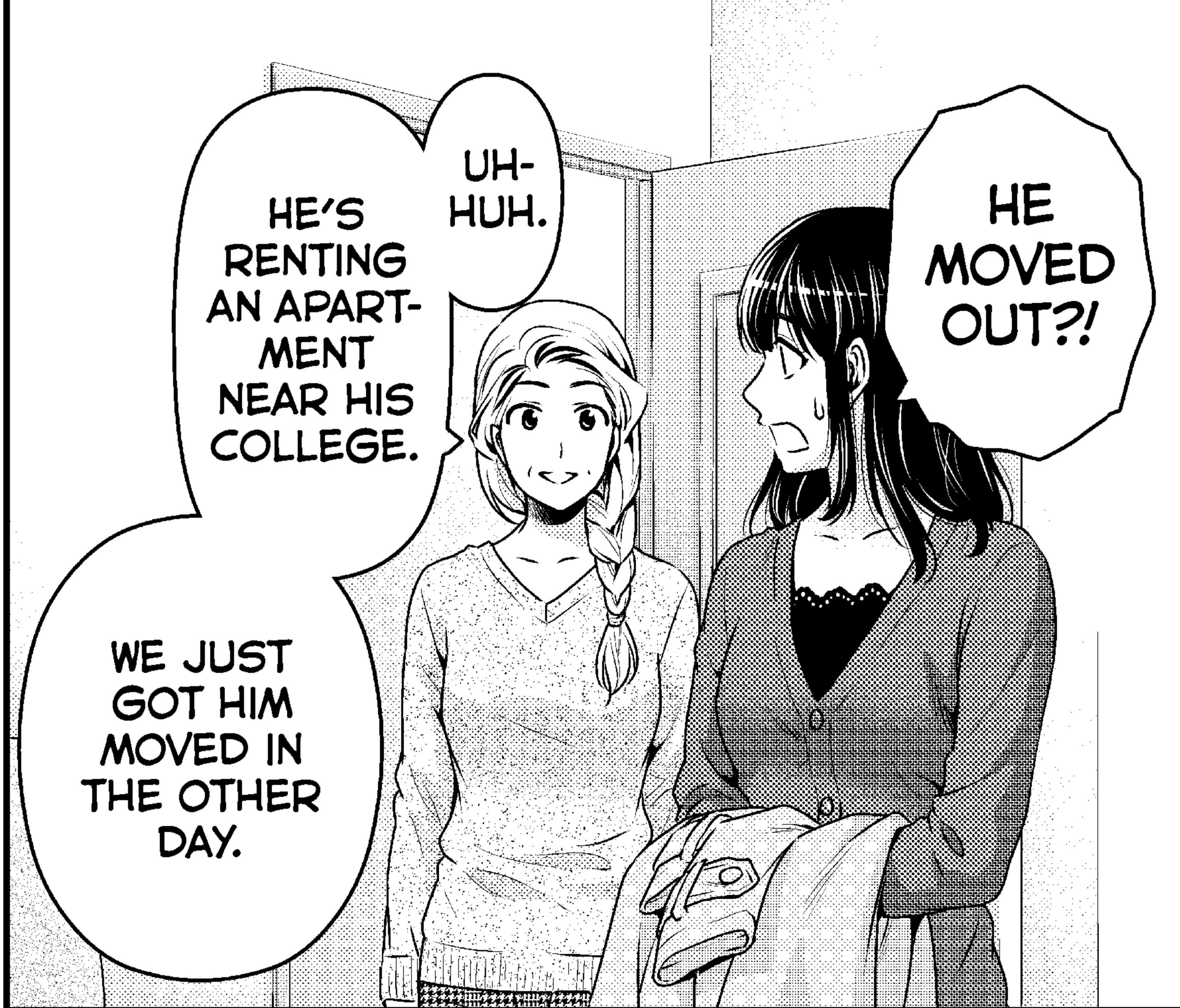


**HE'S  
LIVING ON  
HIS OWN  
STARTING  
THIS  
SPRING.**





I SEE.

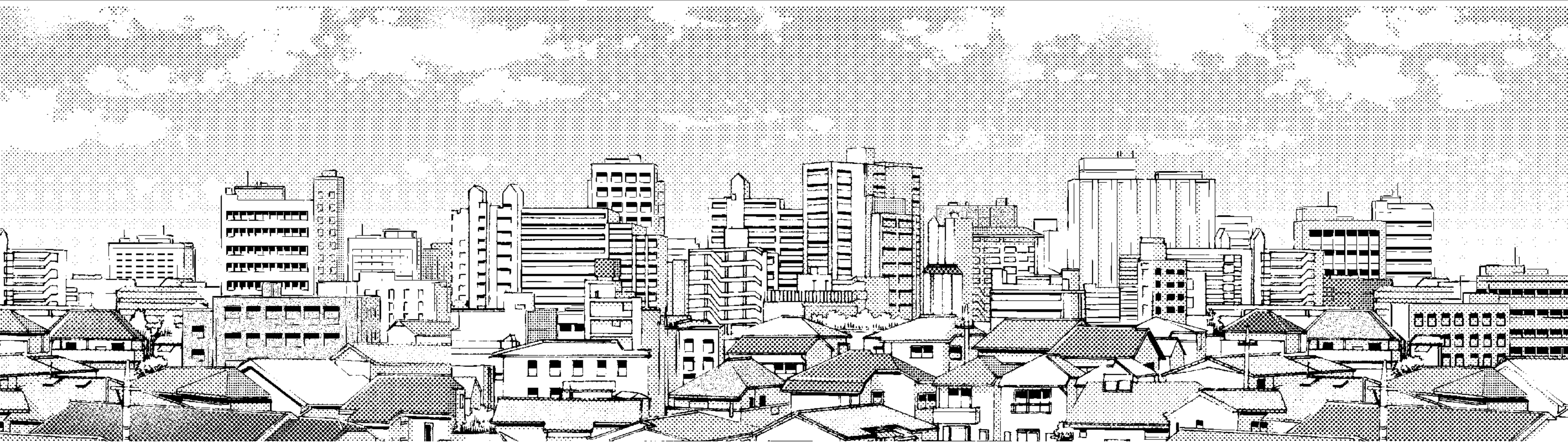


WE JUST GOT HIM MOVED IN THE OTHER DAY.

HE'S RENTING AN APARTMENT NEAR HIS COLLEGE.

UH-HUH.

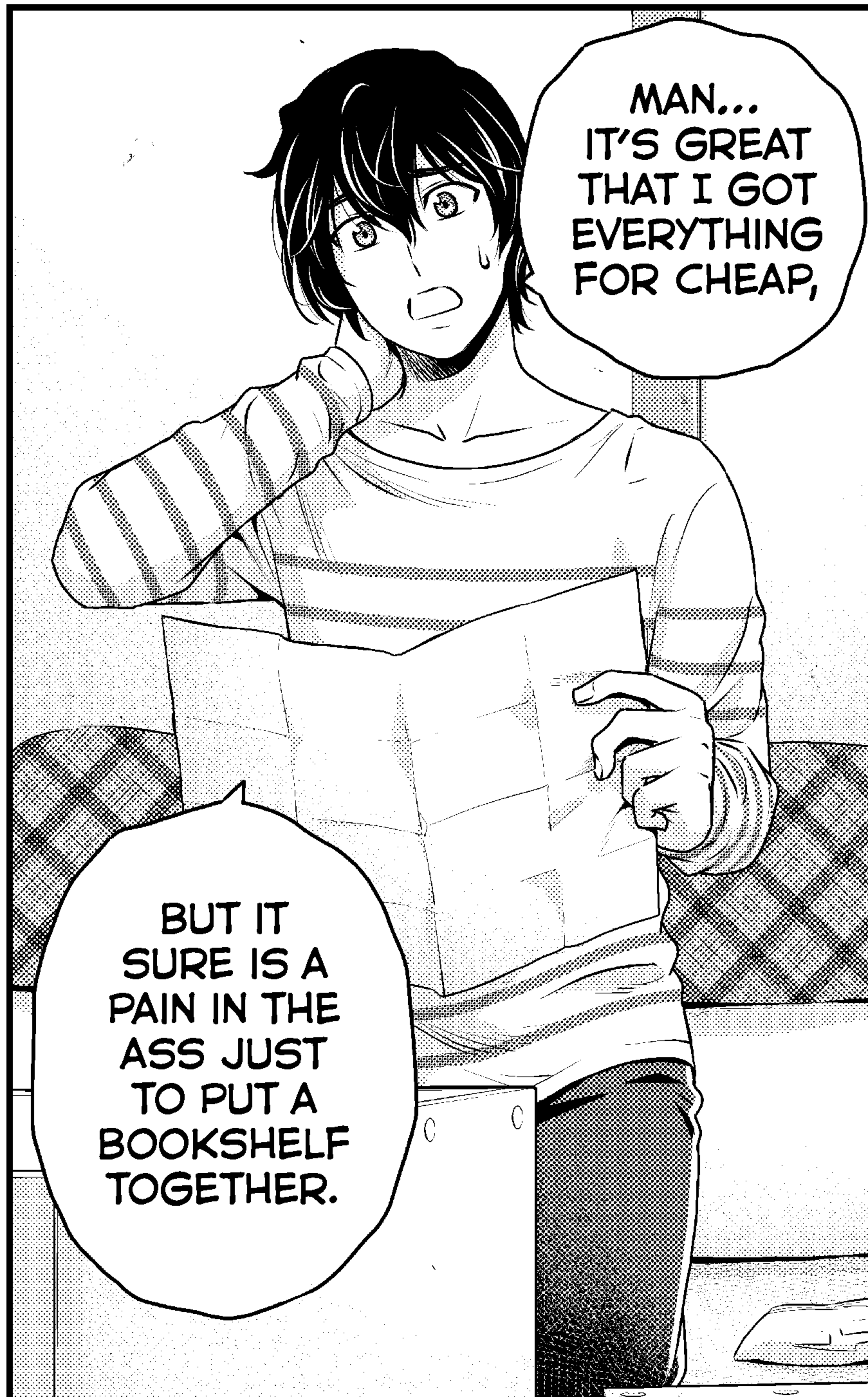
HE MOVED OUT?!



MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT MY OLD FURNITURE WITH ME.

BA DING

BUT THEN MY ROOM WOULD BE EMPTY WHENEVER I WENT BACK HOME...



MAN... IT'S GREAT THAT I GOT EVERYTHING FOR CHEAP,

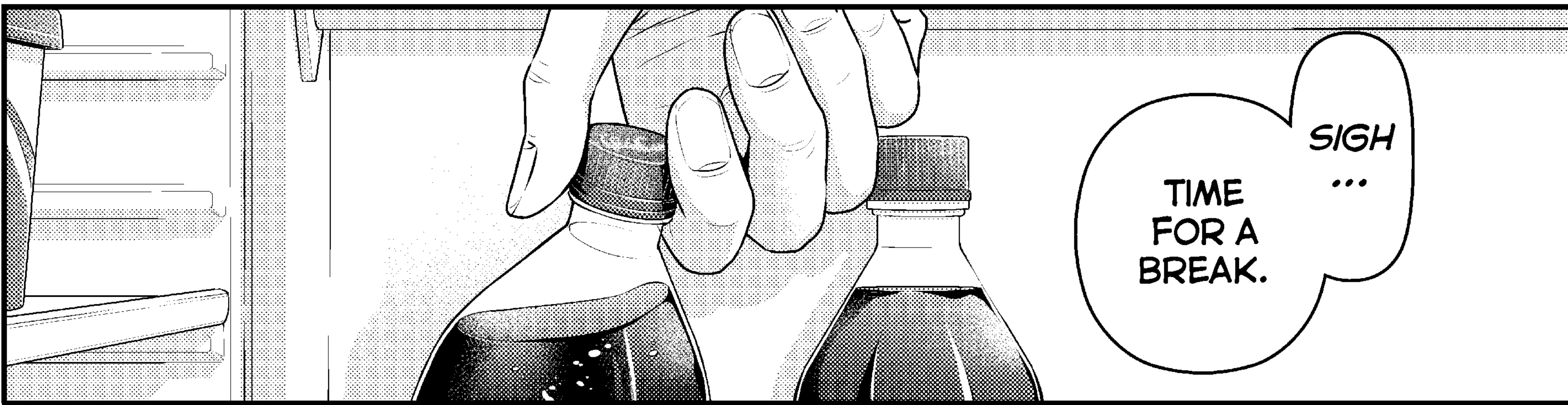
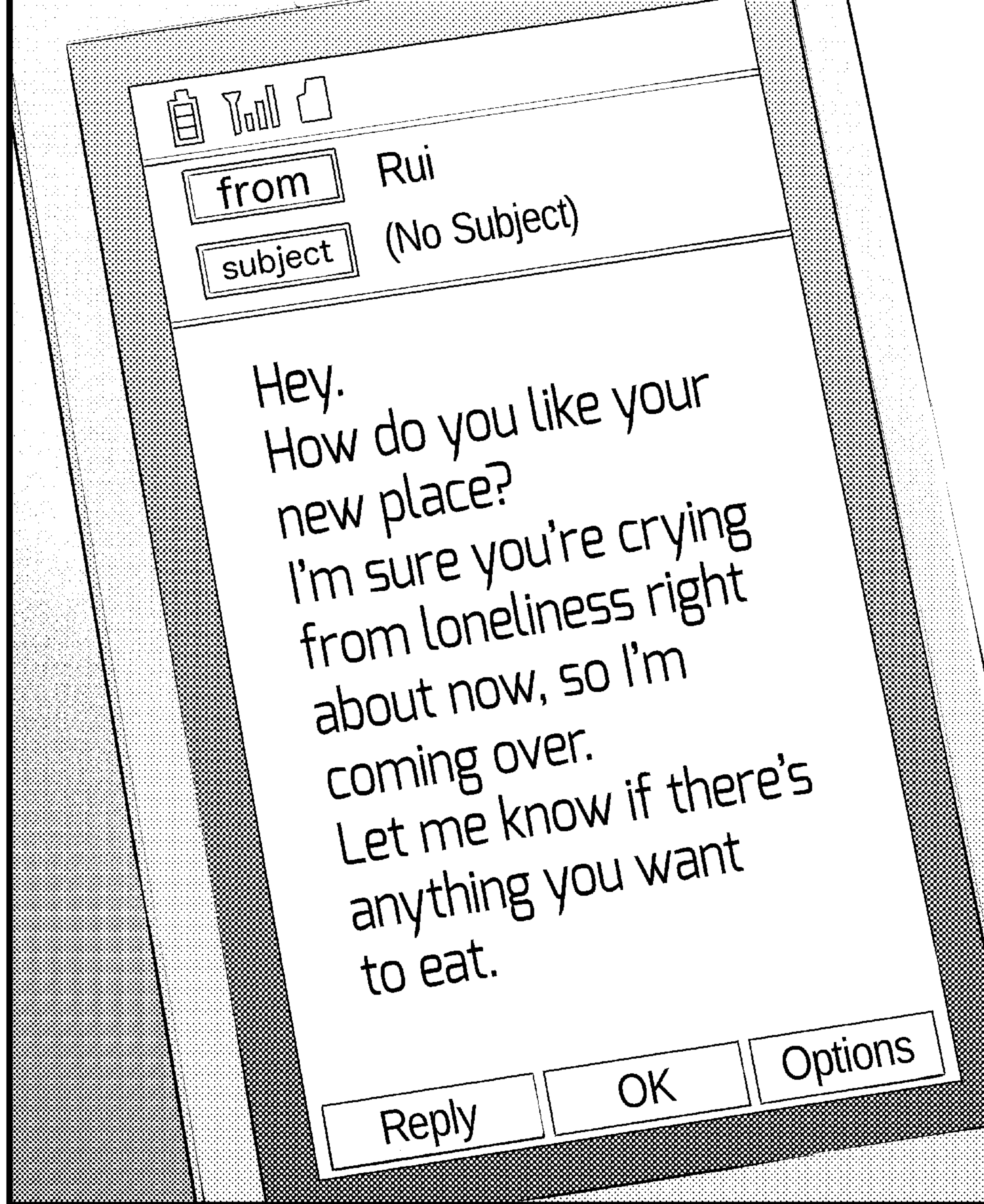
BUT IT SURE IS A PAIN IN THE ASS JUST TO PUT A BOOKSHELF TOGETHER.



UHH. LET'S SEE ... PUT BOLT 3 INTO HOLE C...

C, C... OH, THIS?

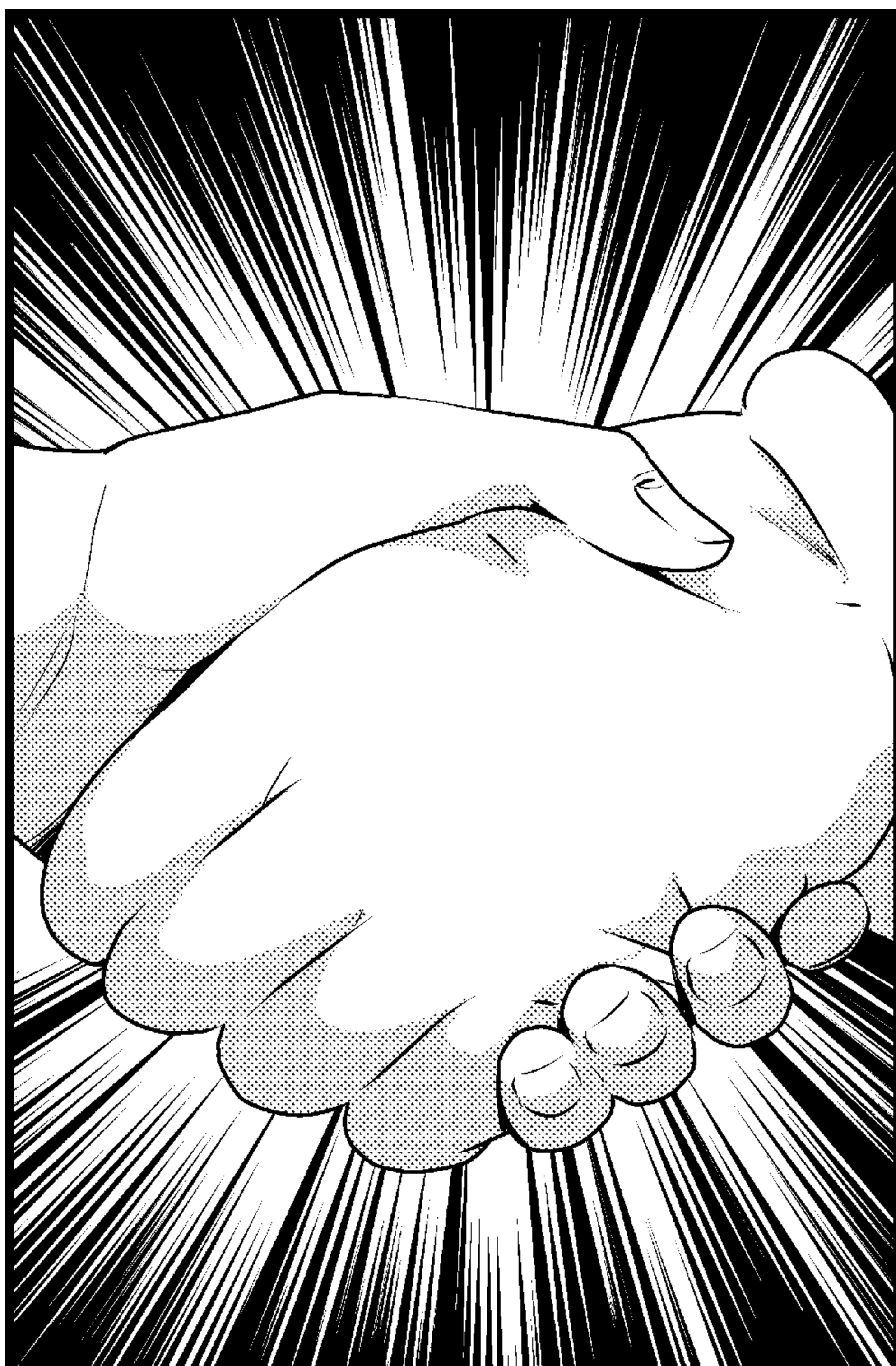
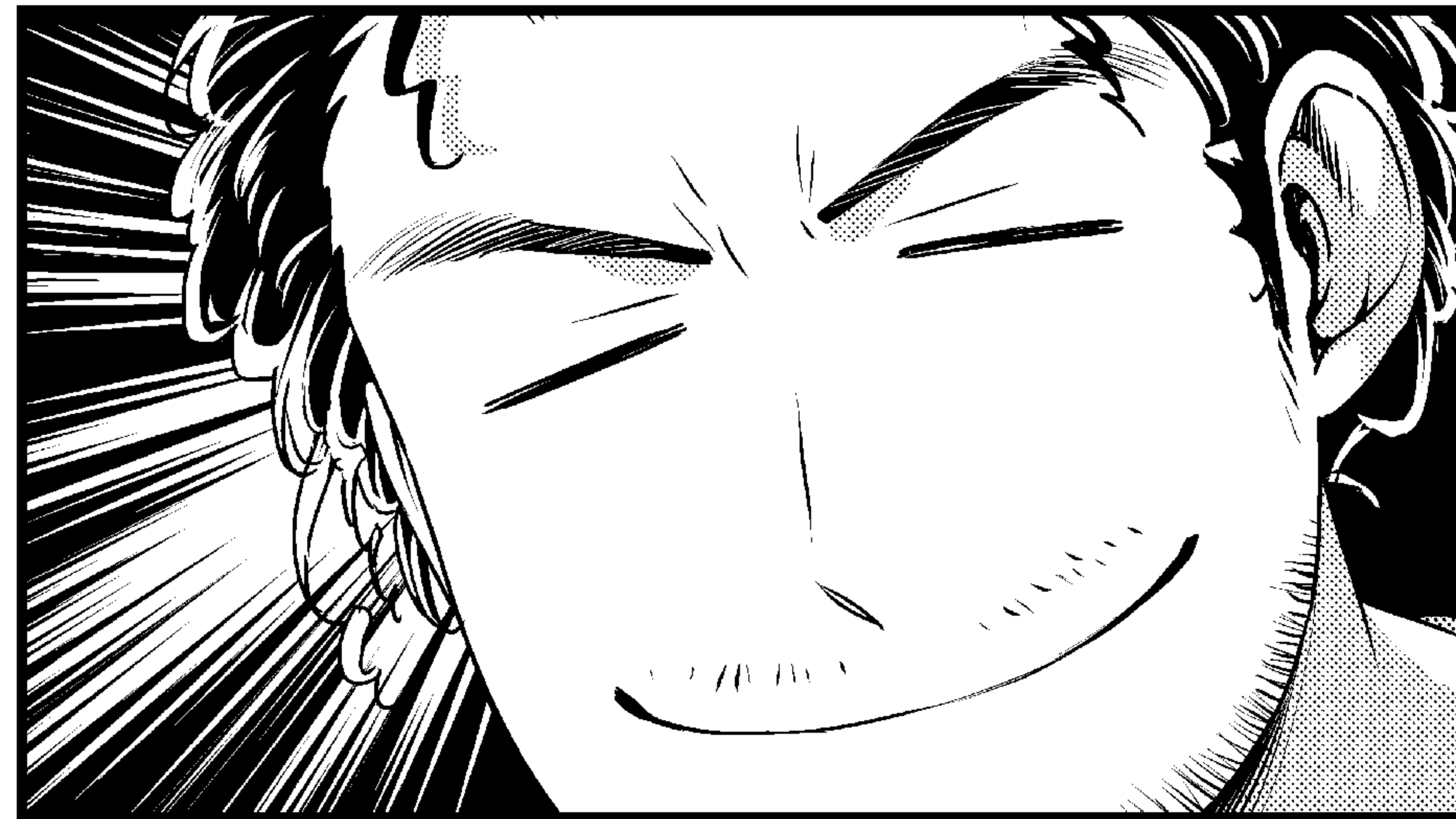
















WILL YOU  
SHUT UP  
ALREADY?!

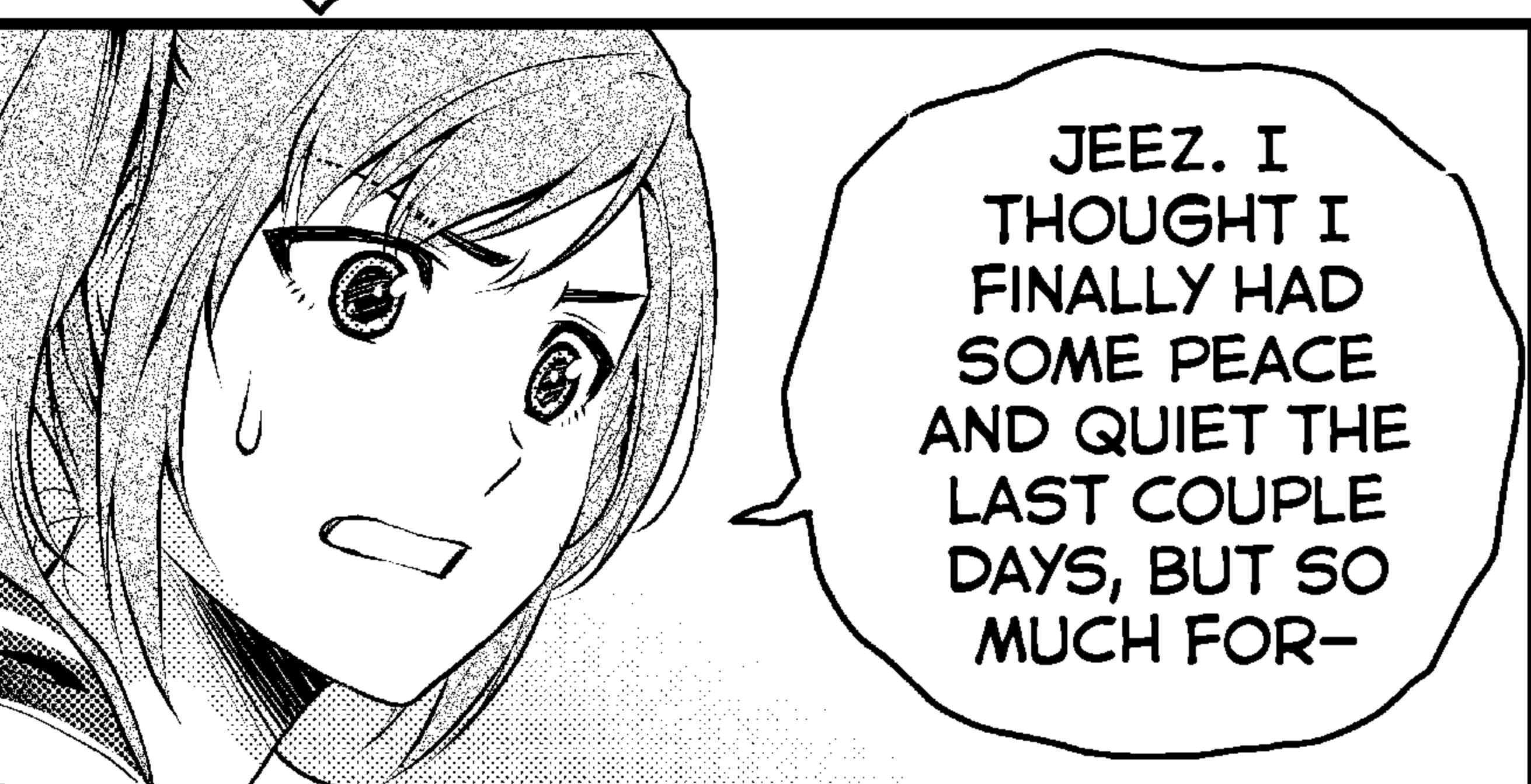


IT'S  
ABOUT  
HEART!  
SOUL!

HUH  
?!

SINGING  
ISN'T  
ABOUT  
BEING  
GOOD  
OR  
BAD!

SHUT UP!  
QUIT  
SHOVING  
YOUR SOUL  
IN OUR  
FACES!



JEEZ. I  
THOUGHT I  
FINALLY HAD  
SOME PEACE  
AND QUIET THE  
LAST COUPLE  
DAYS, BUT SO  
MUCH FOR—



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN,  
WHAT?  
YOU DID  
THIS TO  
HIM.

HEY...  
WHAT  
HAP-  
PENED  
?!



I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
YOU CAN  
KEEP PLAY-  
ING YOUR  
SHITTY MUSIC  
DAY AFTER  
DAY!

TRY THINK-  
ING ABOUT  
THE PEOPLE  
WHO HAVE  
TO LISTEN  
TO YOU!

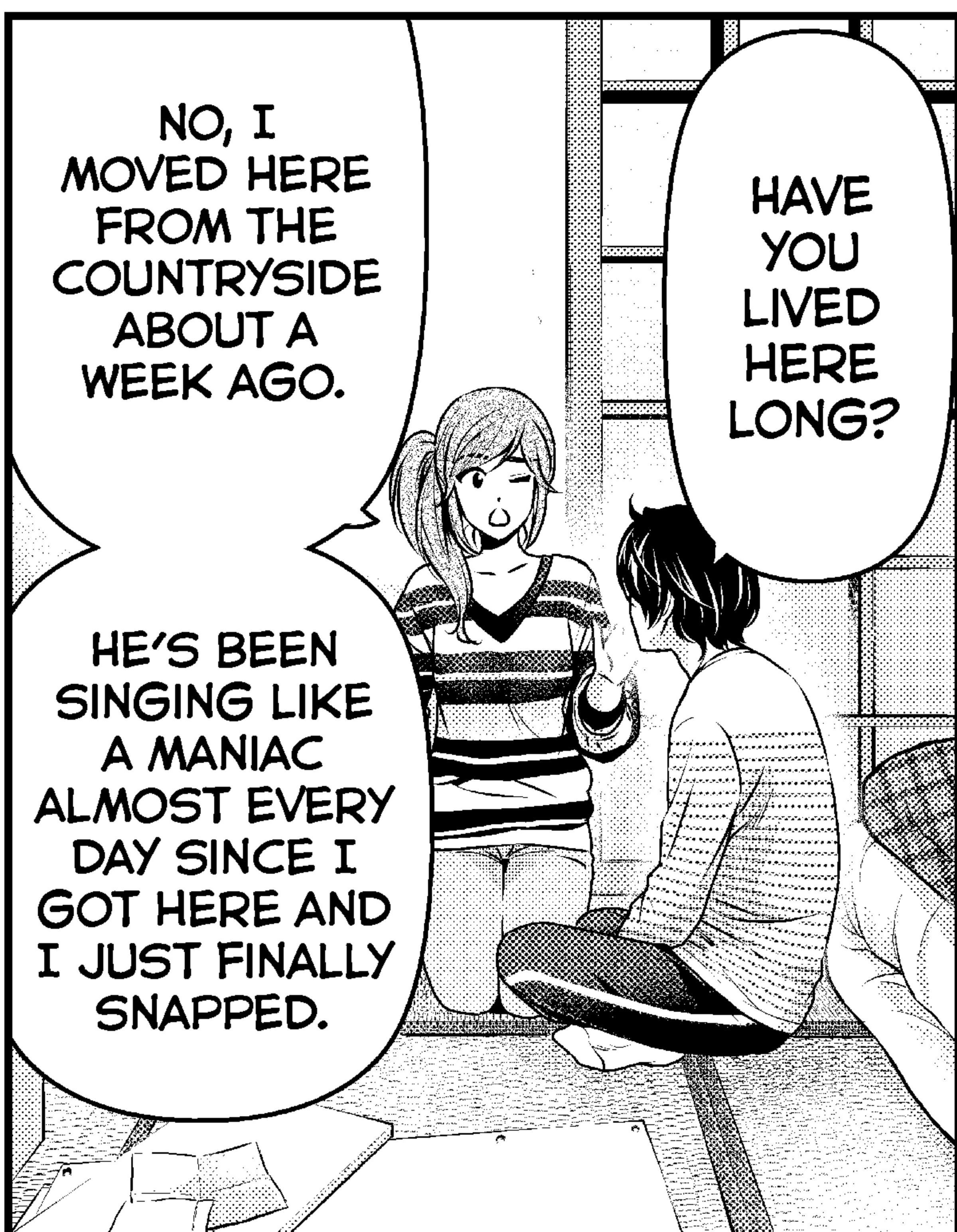




IT'S HIS  
FAULT FOR  
PLAYING  
THAT DAMN  
GUITAR ALL  
THE TIME!

IT'S  
FINE.

THANKS  
FOR  
CLEAN-  
ING MY  
CUT.



NO, I  
MOVED HERE  
FROM THE  
COUNTRYSIDE  
ABOUT A  
WEEK AGO.

HAVE  
YOU  
LIVED  
HERE  
LONG?

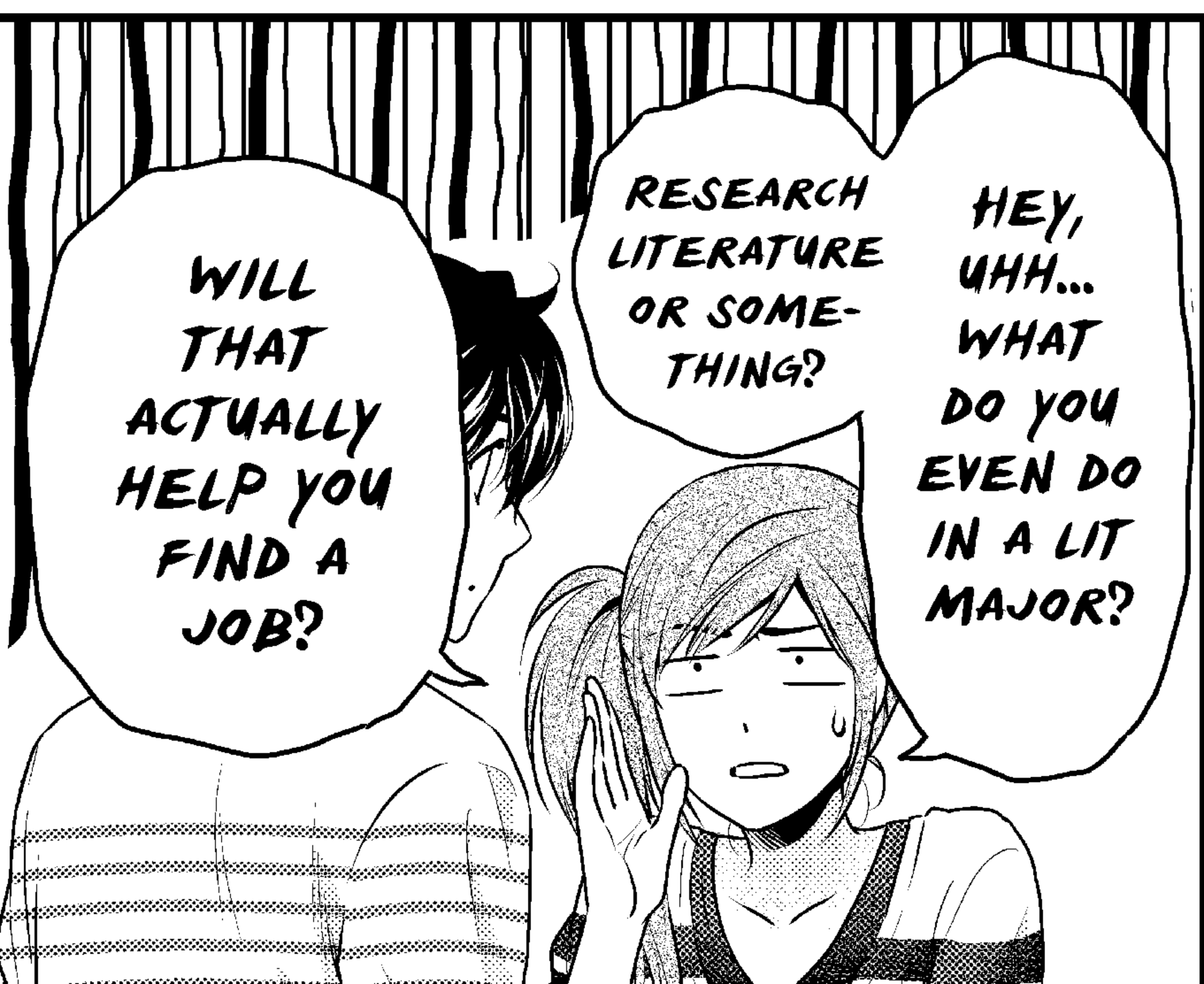
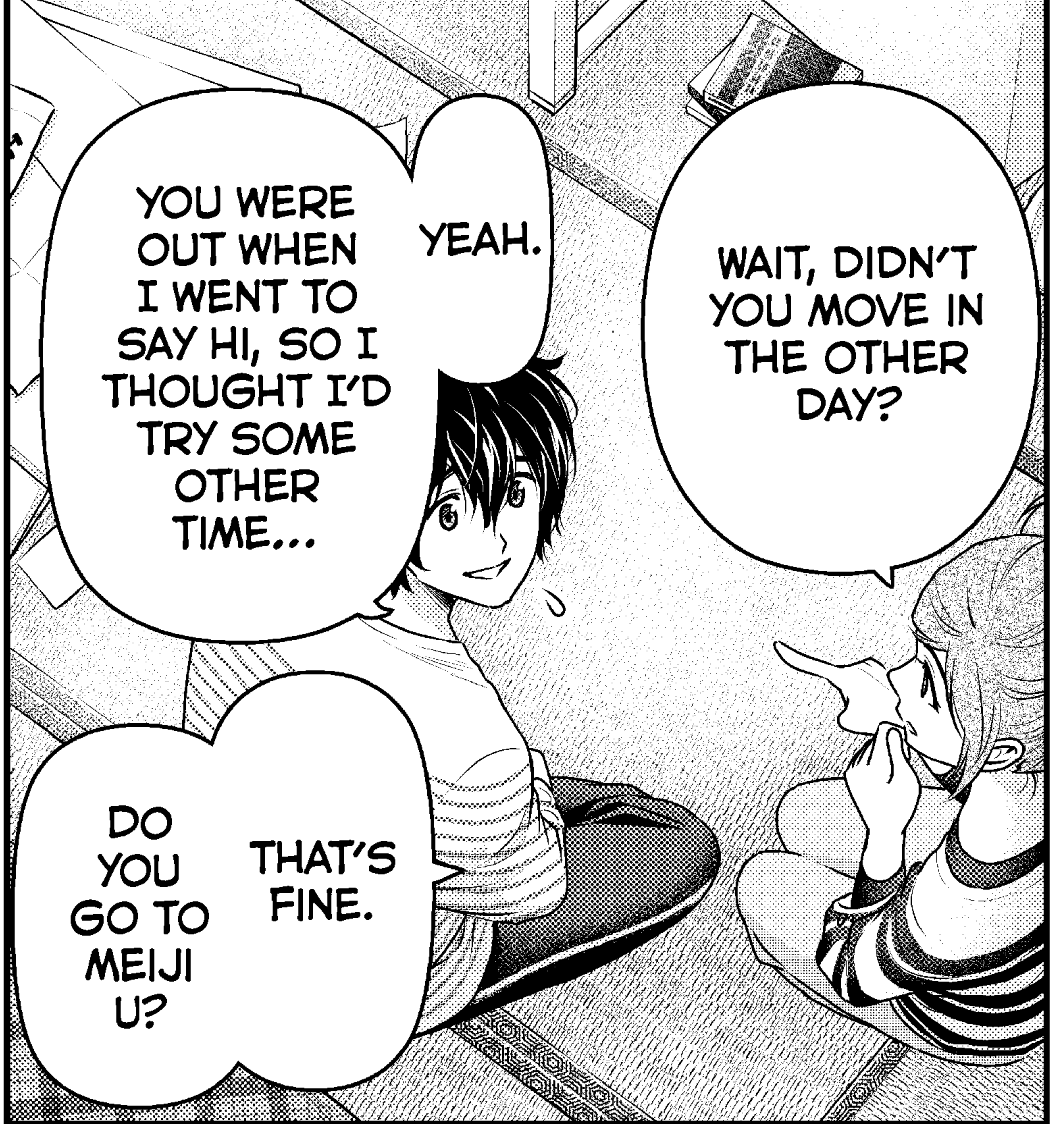
HE'S BEEN  
SINGING LIKE  
A MANIAC  
ALMOST EVERY  
DAY SINCE I  
GOT HERE AND  
I JUST FINALLY  
SNAPPED.



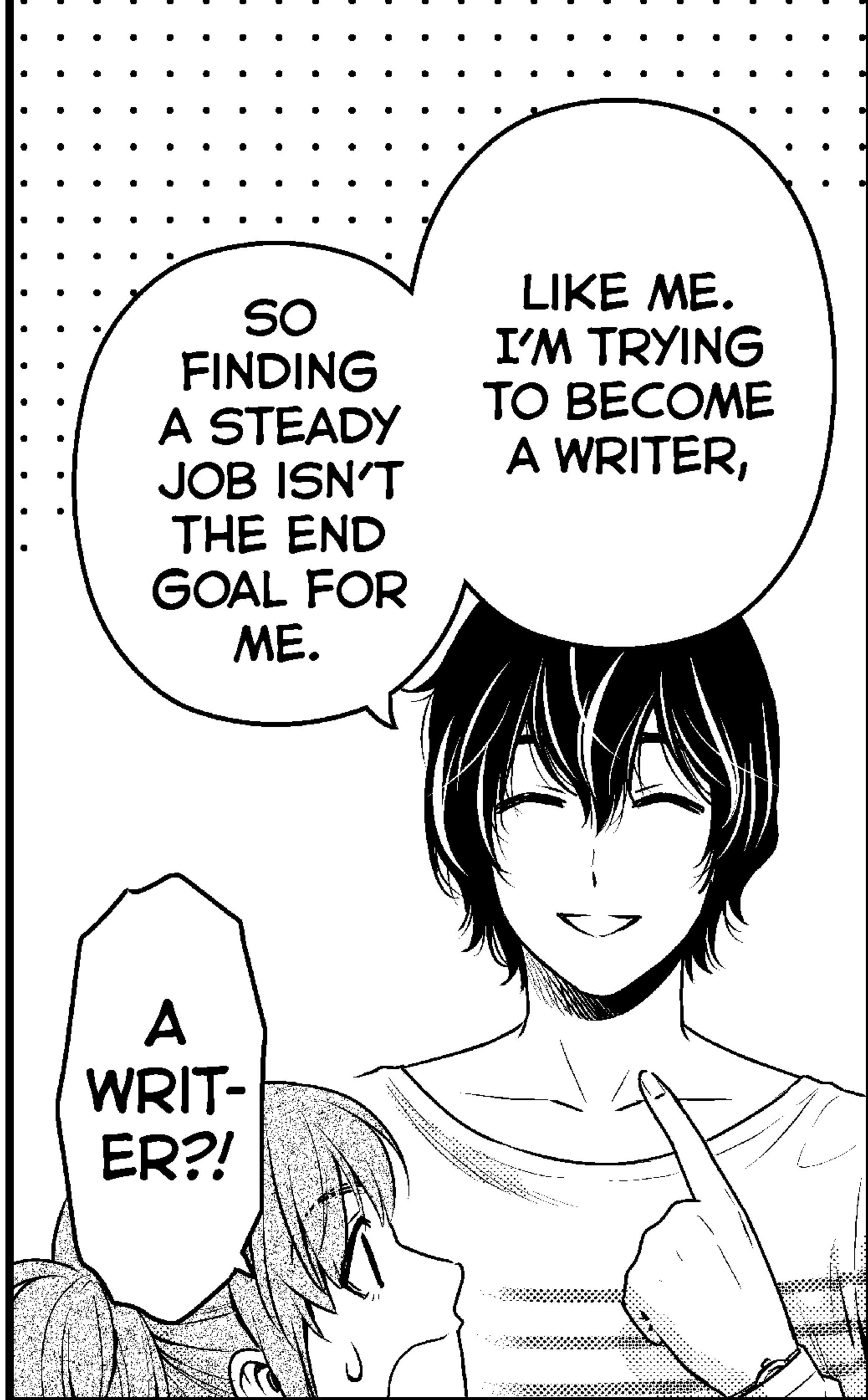
AH...  
THAT  
STINGS  
...

I'M REALLY  
SORRY.  
I DIDN'T SEE  
YOU ON THE  
BALCONY.





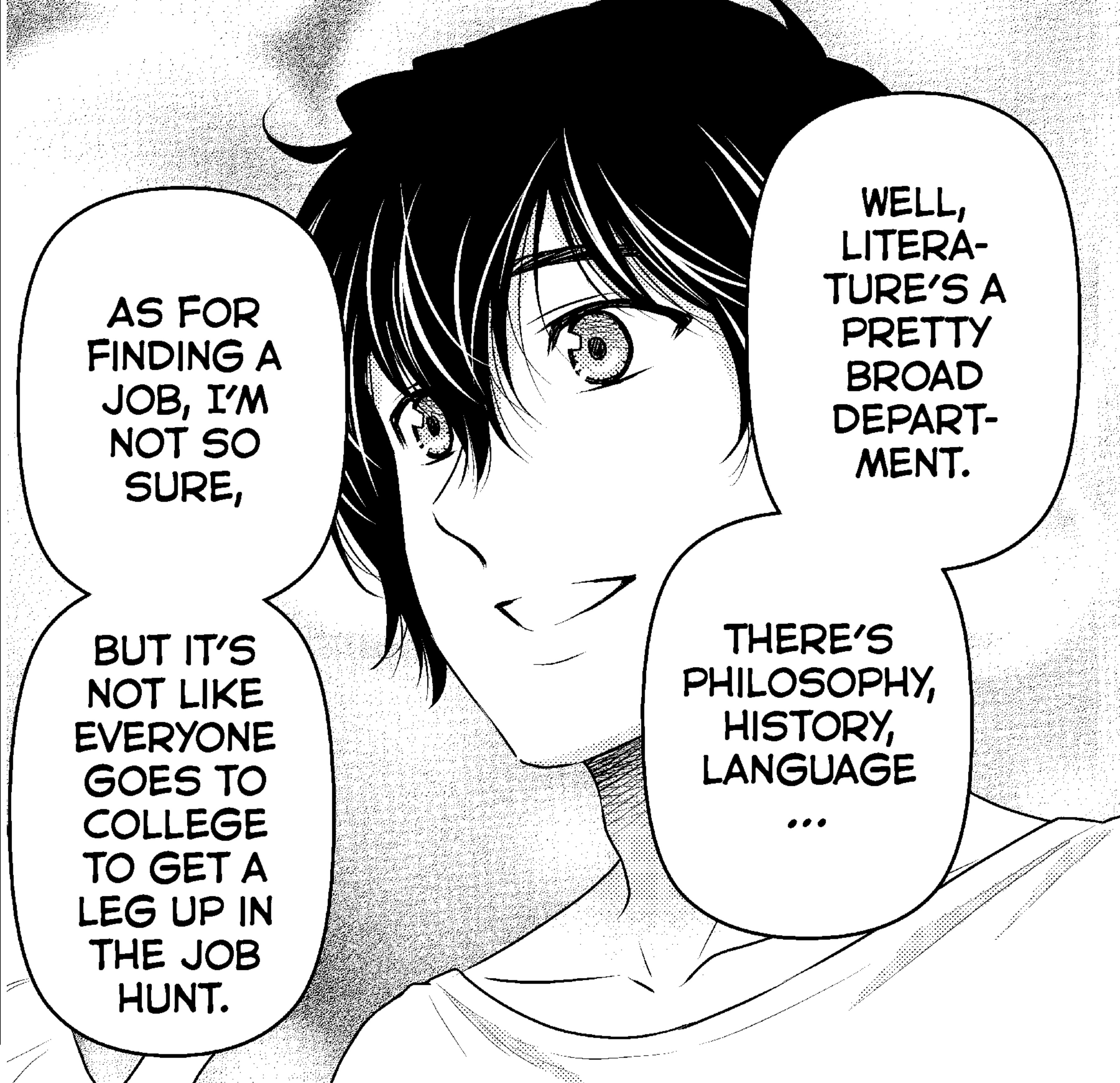




SO FINDING A STEADY JOB ISN'T THE END GOAL FOR ME.

LIKE ME. I'M TRYING TO BECOME A WRITER,

A WRITER?!



AS FOR FINDING A JOB, I'M NOT SO SURE,

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYONE GOES TO COLLEGE TO GET A LEG UP IN THE JOB HUNT.

WELL, LITERATURE'S A PRETTY BROAD DEPARTMENT.

THERE'S PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, LANGUAGE ...



I WON THE SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD IN MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL ...

UH-HUH.



WAIT, SO, LIKE, DO YOU SUBMIT STORIES FOR AWARDS AND STUFF?

HMM.



FACE ISN'T BAD.

FAMILY'S FROM TOKYO, BUT LIVING ON HIS OWN.

GOES TO MEIJI, SO MUST BE SOMEWHAT SMART.

READING & WRITING FOR A HOBBY. (MIGHT COME FROM A WELL-OFF FAMILY?)

SEEMS TO BE PRETTY GOOD, TOO.

NICE WATCH.

BO 有将来  
! 望来  
PROMISING



HMM ...

ちい  
peek



SHIN-KOSHA?! WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!

WELL, I'M TRYING MY HARDEST TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T JUST A FLUKE.





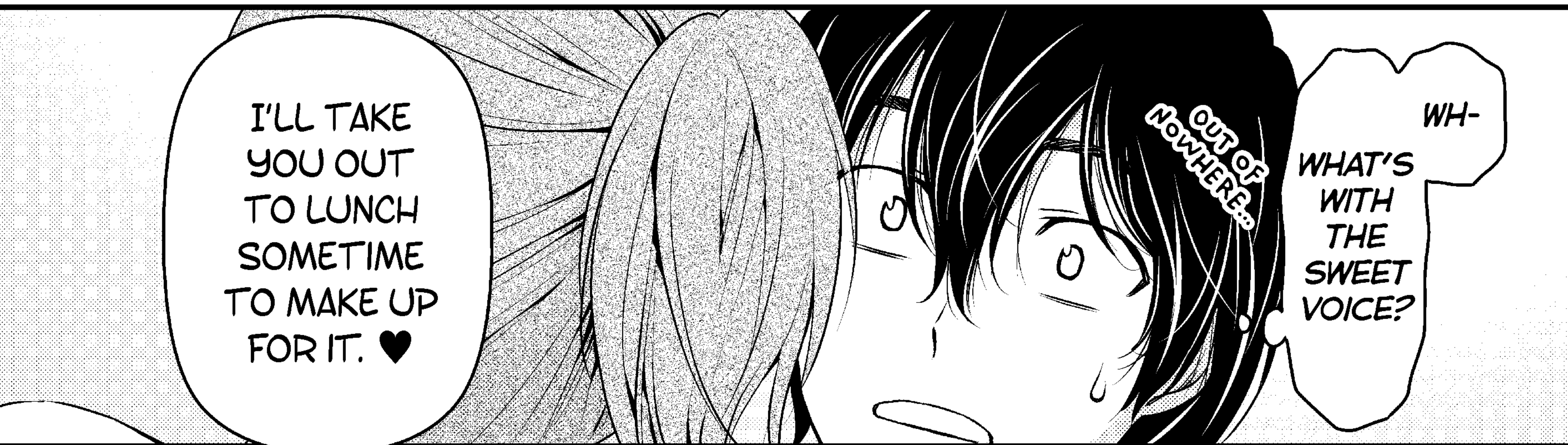
I'M SOOO  
SORRY I  
HURT YOUR  
HEAD, MR.  
FUTURE  
WRITER.

CAN YOU  
EVER  
FORGIVE  
ME?



I SEE  
...

SLIP



I'LL TAKE  
YOU OUT  
TO LUNCH  
SOMETIME  
TO MAKE UP  
FOR IT. ♥

OUT OF  
NOWHERE...

WH-  
WHAT'S  
WITH  
THE  
SWEET  
VOICE?



OKAY  
?

LET'S  
HAVE A  
LITTLE  
DATE  
THERE,

....!



WHAAAT?  
A GIRL-  
FRIEND?



UHH.  
THANKS  
FOR THE  
OFFER,

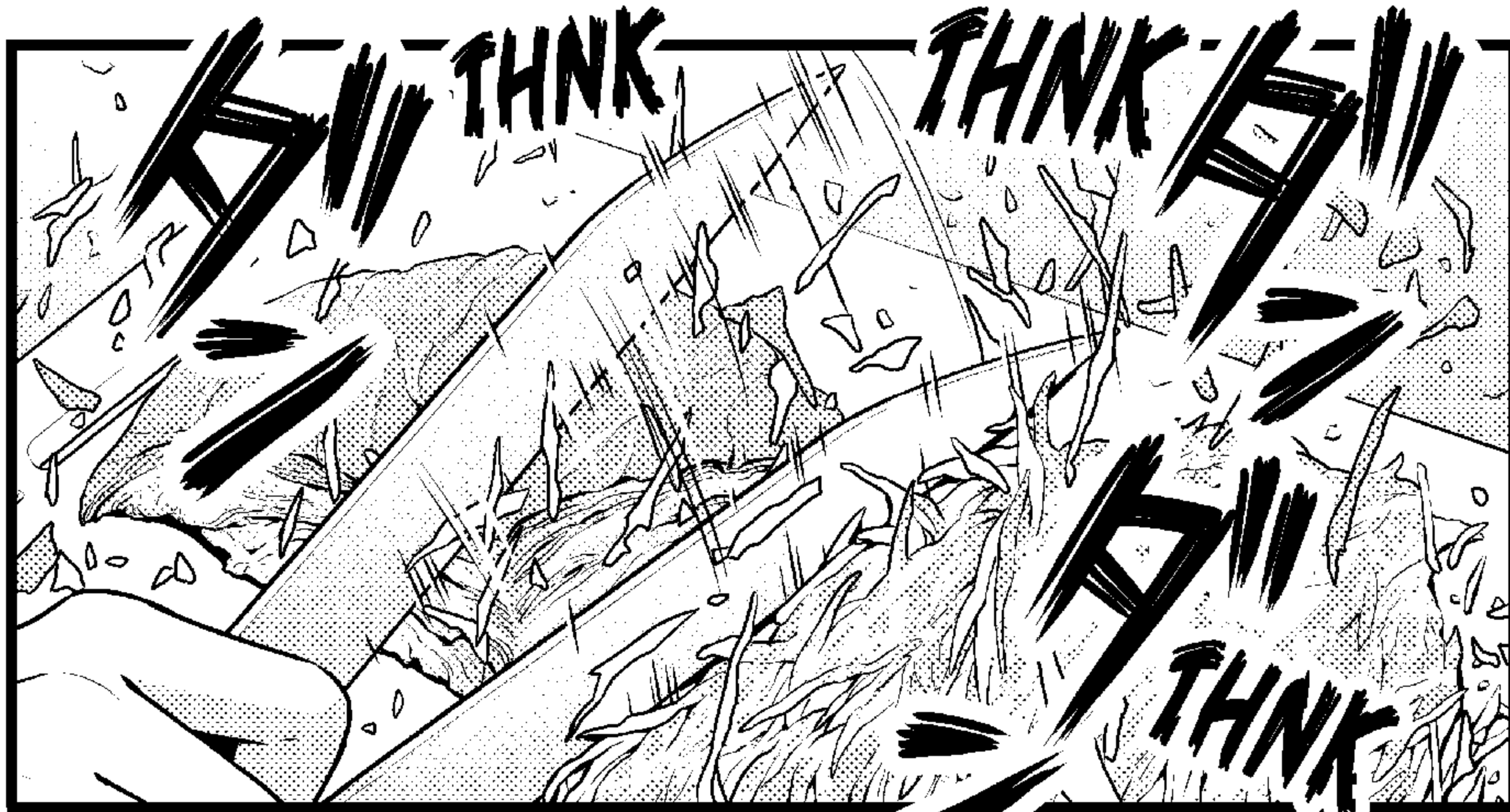
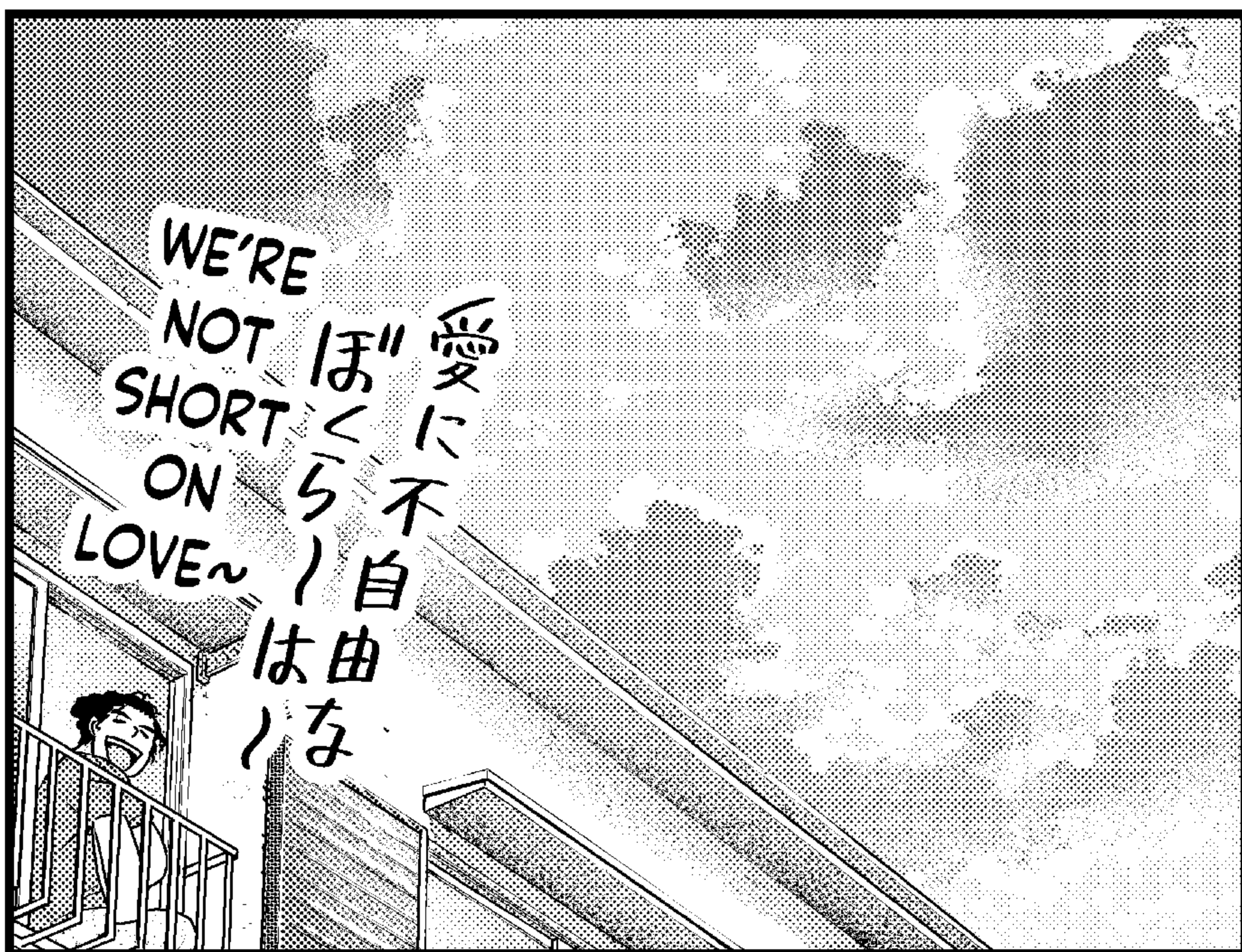
BUT I  
HAVE A  
GIRL-  
FRIEND  
...



I FOUND  
THIS HIP  
CAFÉ...

...RIGHT  
BY THE  
COLLEGE.

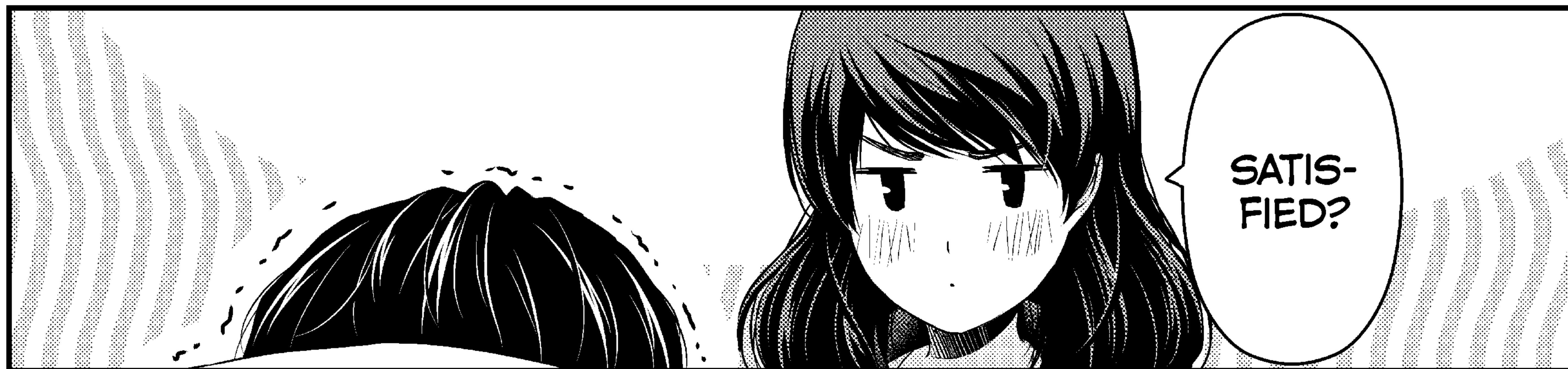




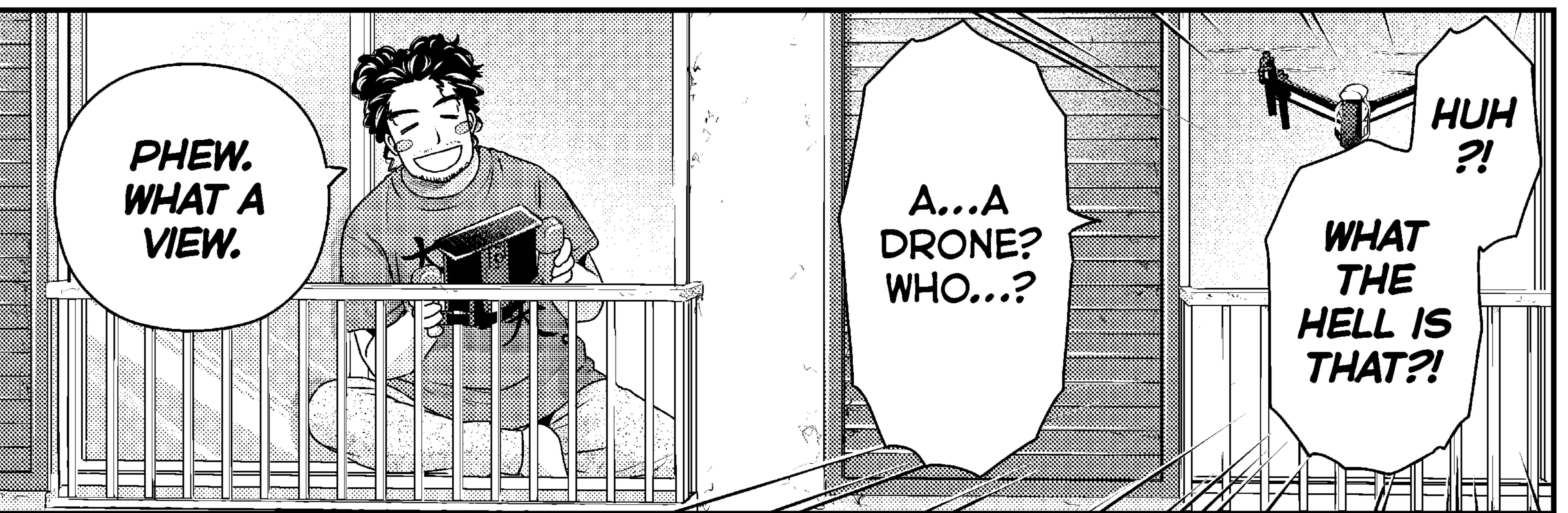
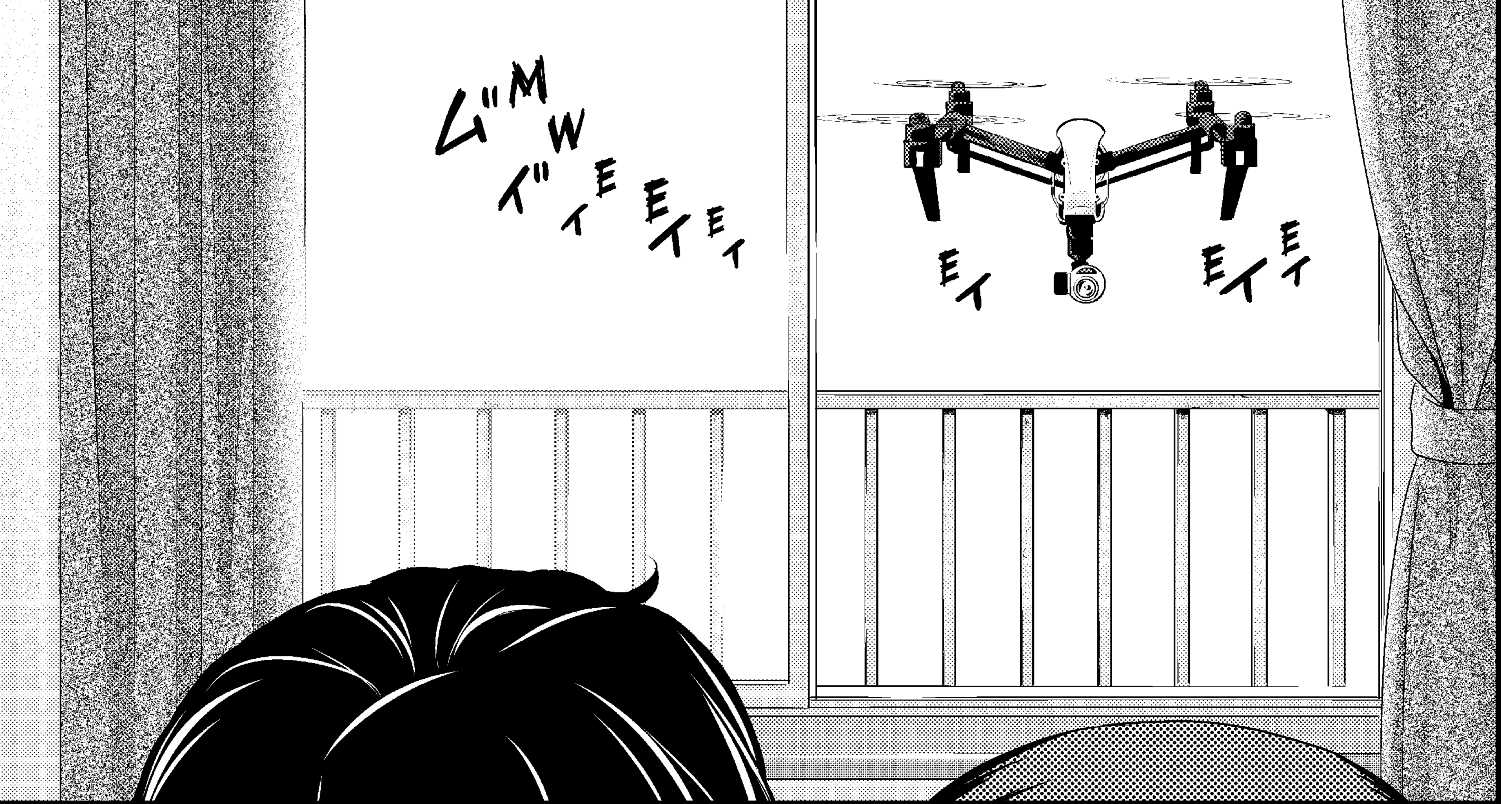




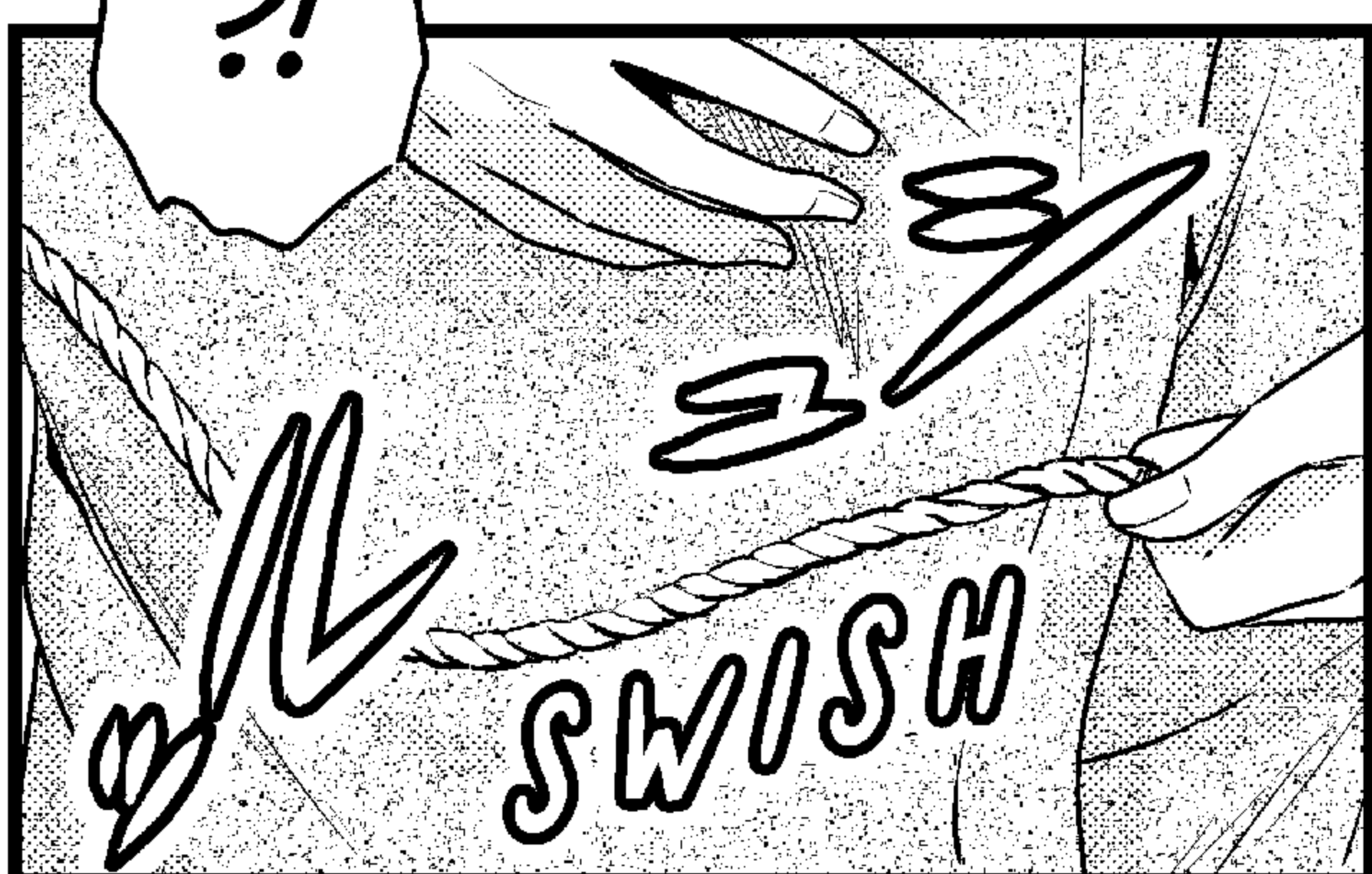










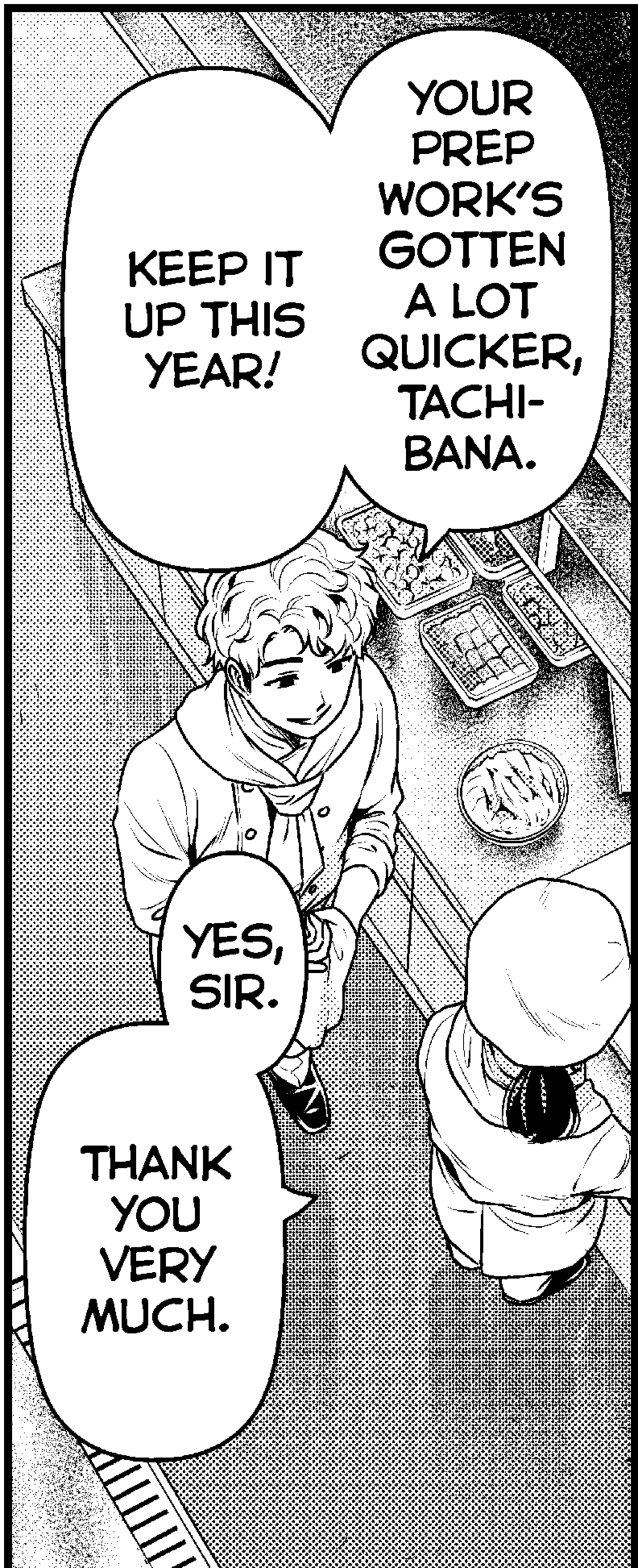




CHAPTER 139: ROLLERCOASTER NEW LIFE



\*PRANZO: LUNCH \*\*CENA: DINNER







**M  
R  
R  
R  
R!**



**DON'T  
WORRY,  
WE'LL GET  
YOU BACK  
BEFORE  
THE  
SEMINAR!**



**MM MRF  
MM MRR  
MM MRRF!**  
(WHY  
WOULDN'T  
I BE  
SCARED?!)

**NO NEED  
TO BE SO  
SCARED!**

**WE'RE  
NOT  
GONNA  
GOBBLE  
YOU UP  
OR ANY-  
THING.**



**HEY,  
GUYS! WE  
BROUGHT  
HIM!**

**BAM**





**LOOK  
AT YOU!  
YOU'RE  
STILL HARD  
AS A ROCK!  
WHAT A  
NAUGHTY  
BOY!**

**THANHYU  
VEWWY MUCH,  
MISHTRESS!**

**TELL  
ME WHAT  
YOU  
WANT ME  
TO DO  
TO YOU!**

**PLEAZ  
BREAK ME  
IN MORE!**



**THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
FOR  
TODAY!**

**AAAH! IT  
HURTS!**

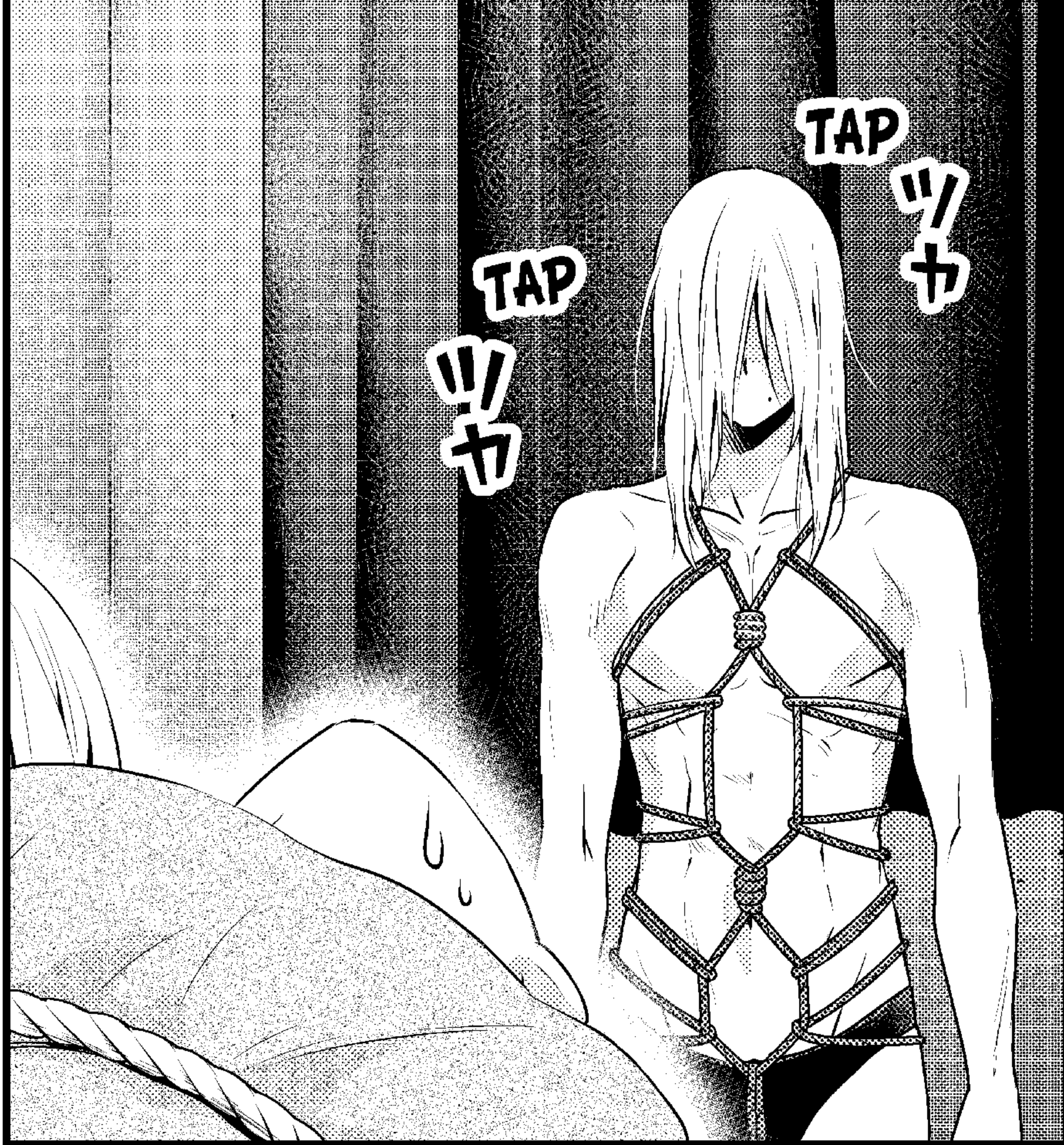
**BUT ID  
FEELTH  
SHO  
GOOD,  
MISH-  
TRESS!**

**HOW'S  
THAT?!  
YOU LIKE  
THAT?!**

**I WANT  
YOU ALL  
TO TAKE  
A GOOD  
LOOK AT  
THIS PIG!**

**SLAP  
SLAP**

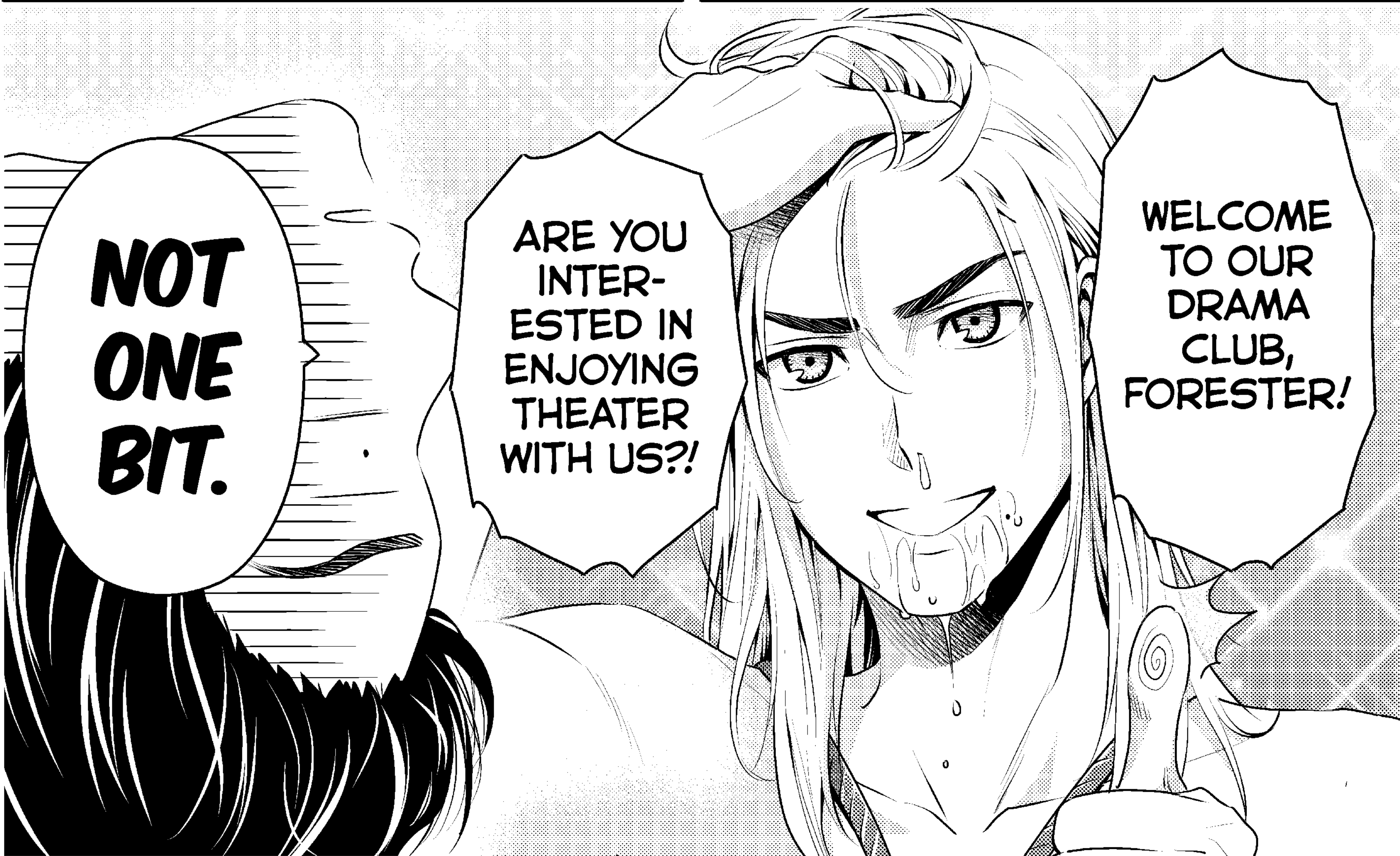




GREAT.  
YOU'VE  
GOTTEN  
MUCH  
BETTER.

THANKS!

DO IT  
JUST LIKE  
THAT ON  
OPENING  
NIGHT.



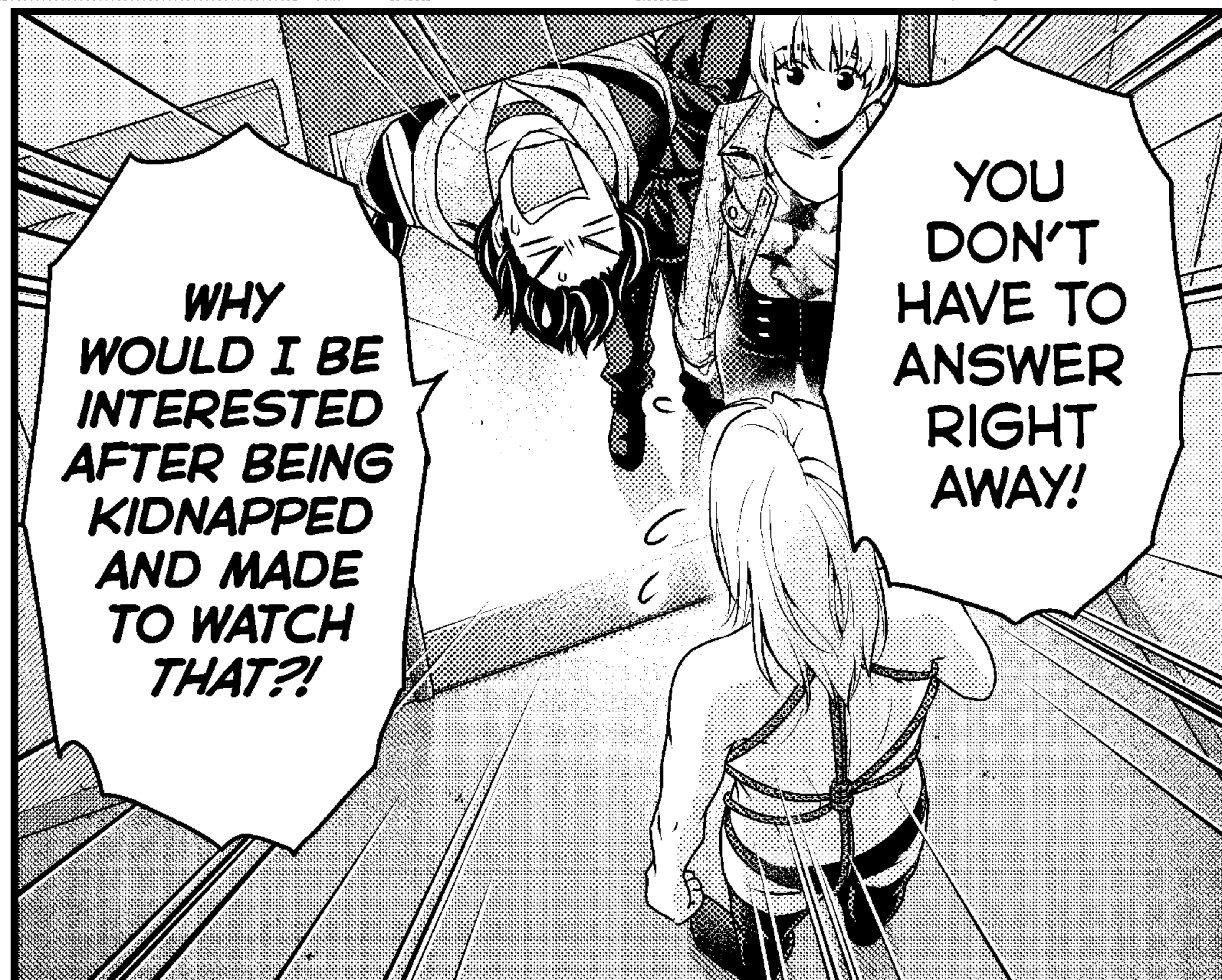
**NOT  
ONE  
BIT.**

ARE YOU  
INTER-  
ESTED IN  
ENJOYING  
THEATER  
WITH US?!

WELCOME  
TO OUR  
DRAMA  
CLUB,  
FORESTER!



TRUE, WE  
MAY HAVE  
BEEN A BIT  
ROUGH  
WITH YOU,  
BUT...



WHY  
WOULD I BE  
INTERESTED  
AFTER BEING  
KIDNAPPED  
AND MADE  
TO WATCH  
THAT?!

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
ANSWER  
RIGHT  
AWAY!



**HUH  
?!**

**IN WHAT  
WORLD  
DOES ROLL-  
ING SOME-  
ONE UP AND  
CARRYING  
THEM AWAY  
COUNT AS RECRUIT-  
MENT?!**

**WE'RE  
RECRUIT-  
ING NEW  
MEMBERS.**

**HEY, WHAT'S  
ALL THE  
COMMOTION?**

**WHO'S  
HE?**

**PUT HIM  
DOWN BE-  
FORE SOME-  
ONE CALLS  
THE COPS  
ON US!**

**LET ME  
START  
OVER.**

**WE'RE  
FORESTER,  
MEIJI  
UNIVERSITY'S  
DRAMA  
CLUB.**

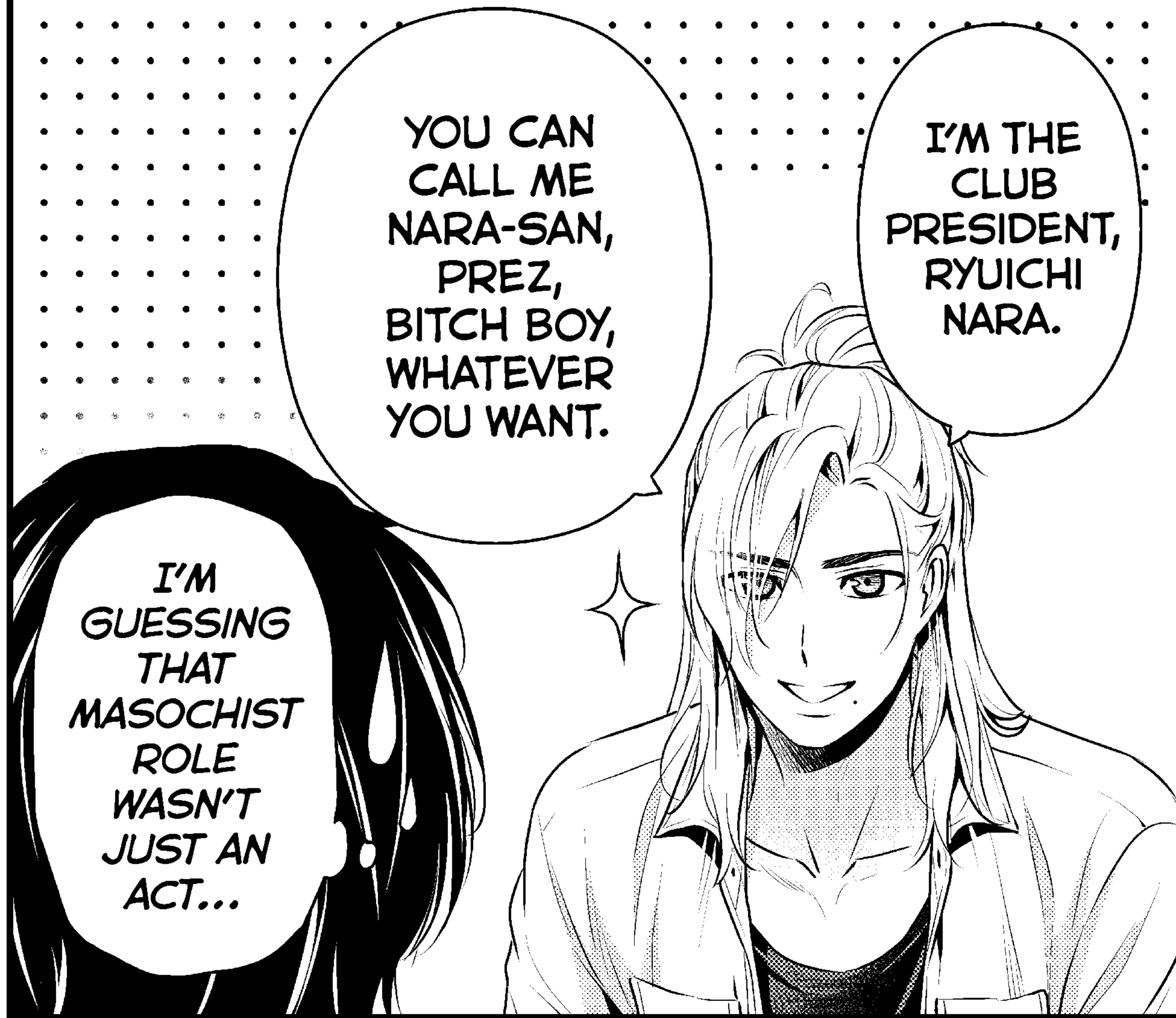
**UHH  
...**





THIS IS CHIKA AKIMOTO. SHE HANDLES GENERAL PRODUCTION.

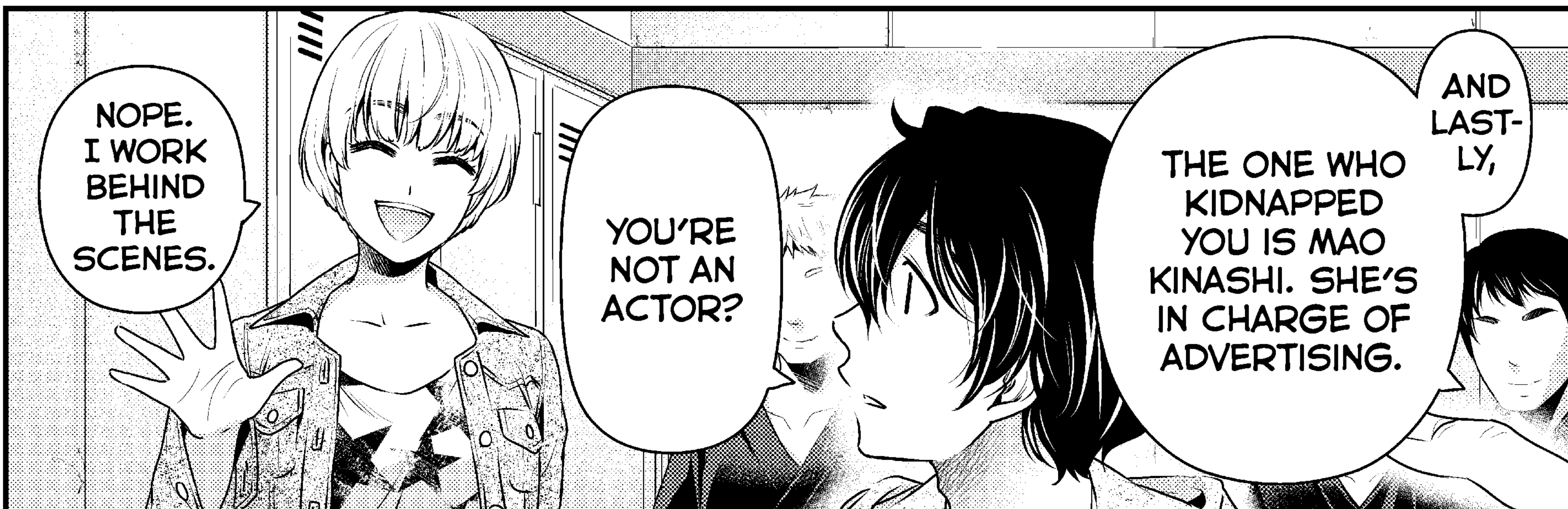
THANK GOD SOME OF THEM ARE NORMAL!



I'M GUESSING THAT MASOCHIST ROLE WASN'T JUST AN ACT...

YOU CAN CALL ME NARA-SAN, PREZ, BITCH BOY, WHATEVER YOU WANT.

I'M THE CLUB PRESIDENT, RYUICHI NARA.



NOPE. I WORK BEHIND THE SCENES.

YOU'RE NOT AN ACTOR?

THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED YOU IS MAO KINASHI. SHE'S IN CHARGE OF ADVERTISING.

AND LASTLY,



I WAS HOPING TO GET YOU TO COME ON AS A SCRIPT-WRITER,

SO I HAD HER BRING YOU.

SHE SAID SHE FOUND A PROMISING FRESHMAN WHO WON THE SHINKOSHA AWARD IN HIGH SCHOOL.

MAO TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.





I'M HONORED  
THAT YOU WENT  
THROUGH THE  
TROUBLE OF  
LOOKING INTO  
ME, AND I  
APPRECIATE  
THE OFFER,

BUT

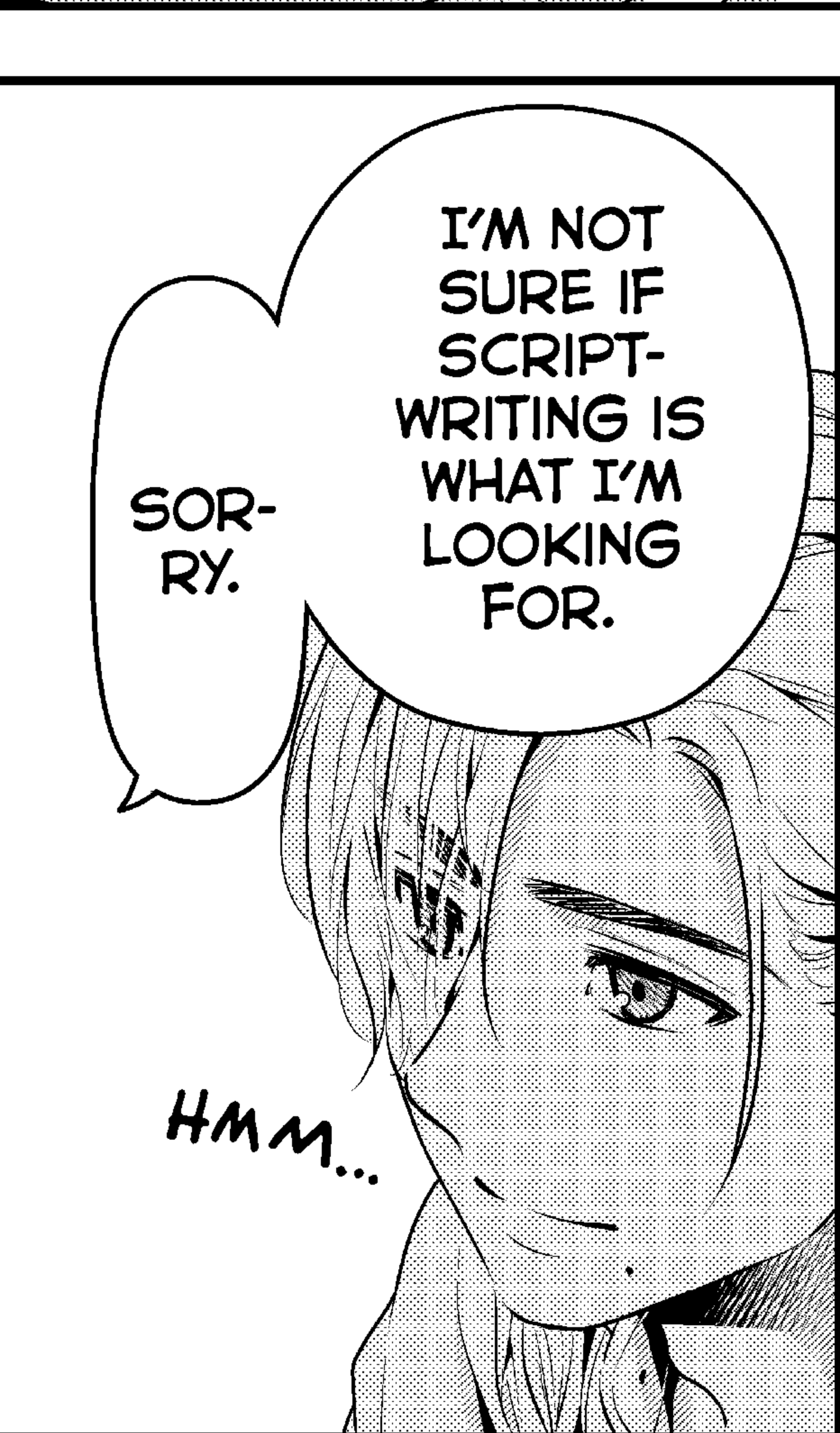
...



I HEAR  
YOU HAVEN'T  
DECIDED ON  
A CLUB TO  
JOIN YET.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?

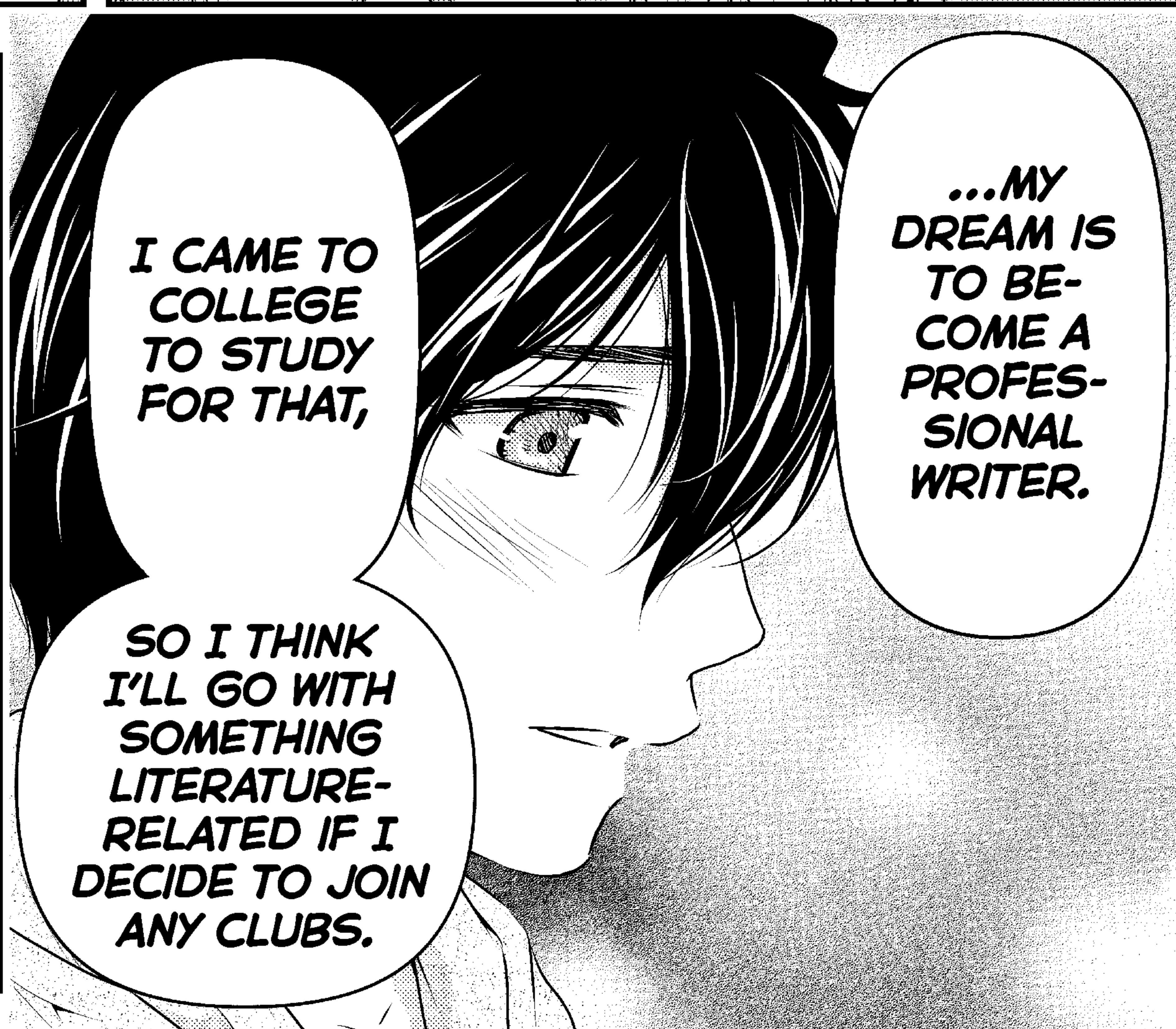
...



SOR-  
RY.

I'M NOT  
SURE IF  
SCRIPT-  
WRITING IS  
WHAT I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR.

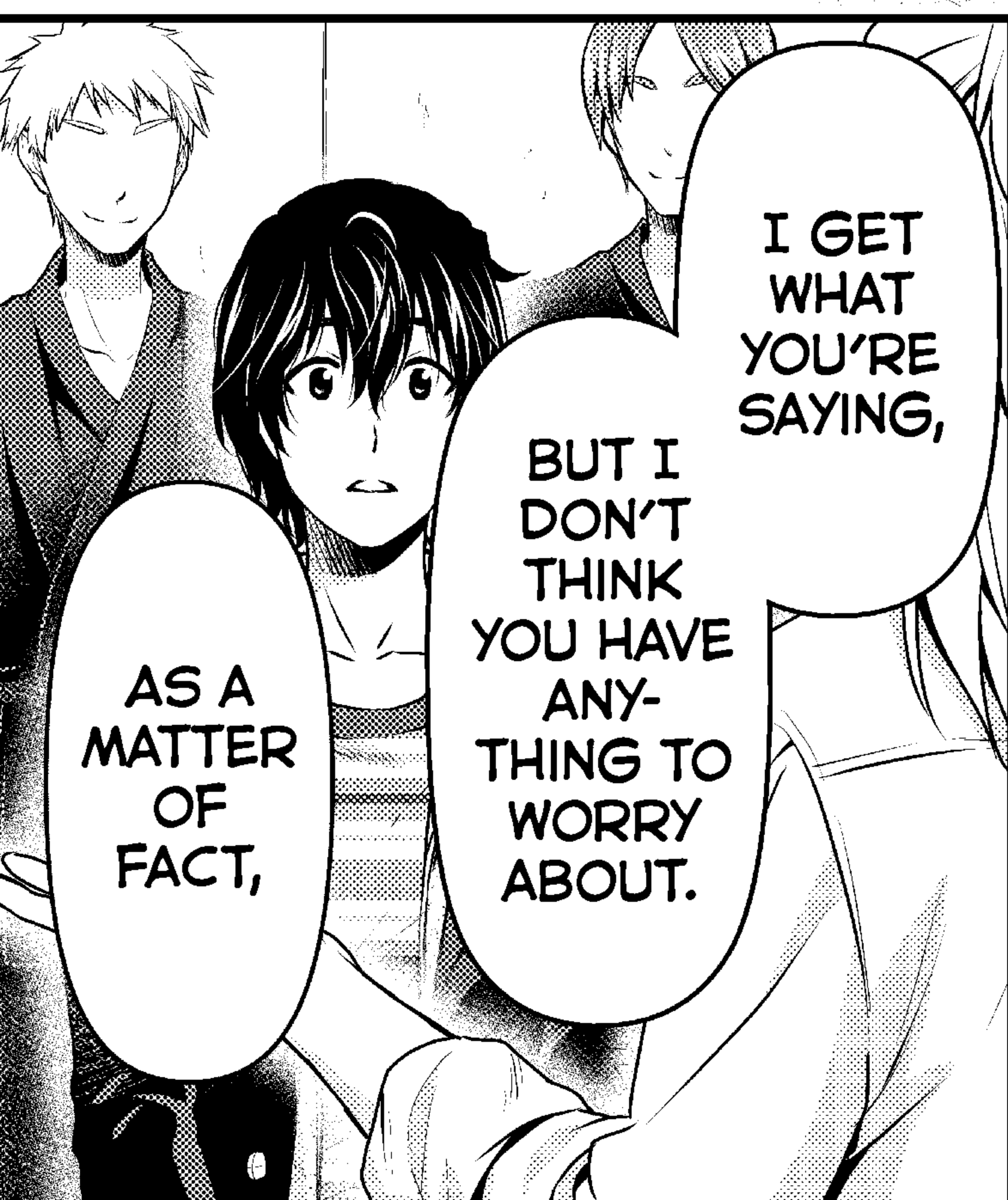
HMM...



I CAME TO  
COLLEGE  
TO STUDY  
FOR THAT,

SO I THINK  
I'LL GO WITH  
SOMETHING  
LITERATURE-  
RELATED IF I  
DECIDE TO JOIN  
ANY CLUBS.

...MY  
DREAM IS  
TO BE-  
COME A  
PROFES-  
SIONAL  
WRITER.



I GET  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
SAYING,

BUT I  
DON'T  
THINK  
YOU HAVE  
ANY-  
THING TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT.

AS A  
MATTER  
OF  
FACT,



I'M NOT  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
S&M...

I CAN  
GET INTO  
SOME  
REJEC-  
TION  
PLAY,

BUT  
I'M NOT  
REALLY IN  
THE MOOD  
RIGHT  
NOW.





...HAPPENS  
TO BE A  
FORMER  
MEMBER OF  
THIS VERY  
DRAMA  
CLUB.

THE HIT  
WRITER,  
YOU HASU-  
KAWA...



KIRIYA-  
SENSEI  
...?!

...



HEY, PREZ.  
THE  
SEMINAR'S  
ABOUT TO  
START.

SO  
...

OH,  
OKAY.



WE CAN'T  
PINPOINT  
HIM IN THE  
RECORDS,  
SINCE HE'S  
NEVER  
RELEASED  
HIS REAL  
NAME,

BUT HE HAS  
SAID THAT HE  
BELONGED  
TO MEIJI U'S  
DRAMA CLUB IN  
INTERVIEWS.

HE WAS  
IN THE  
DRAMA CLUB?  
I NEVER  
WOULD'VE  
GUESSED  
...



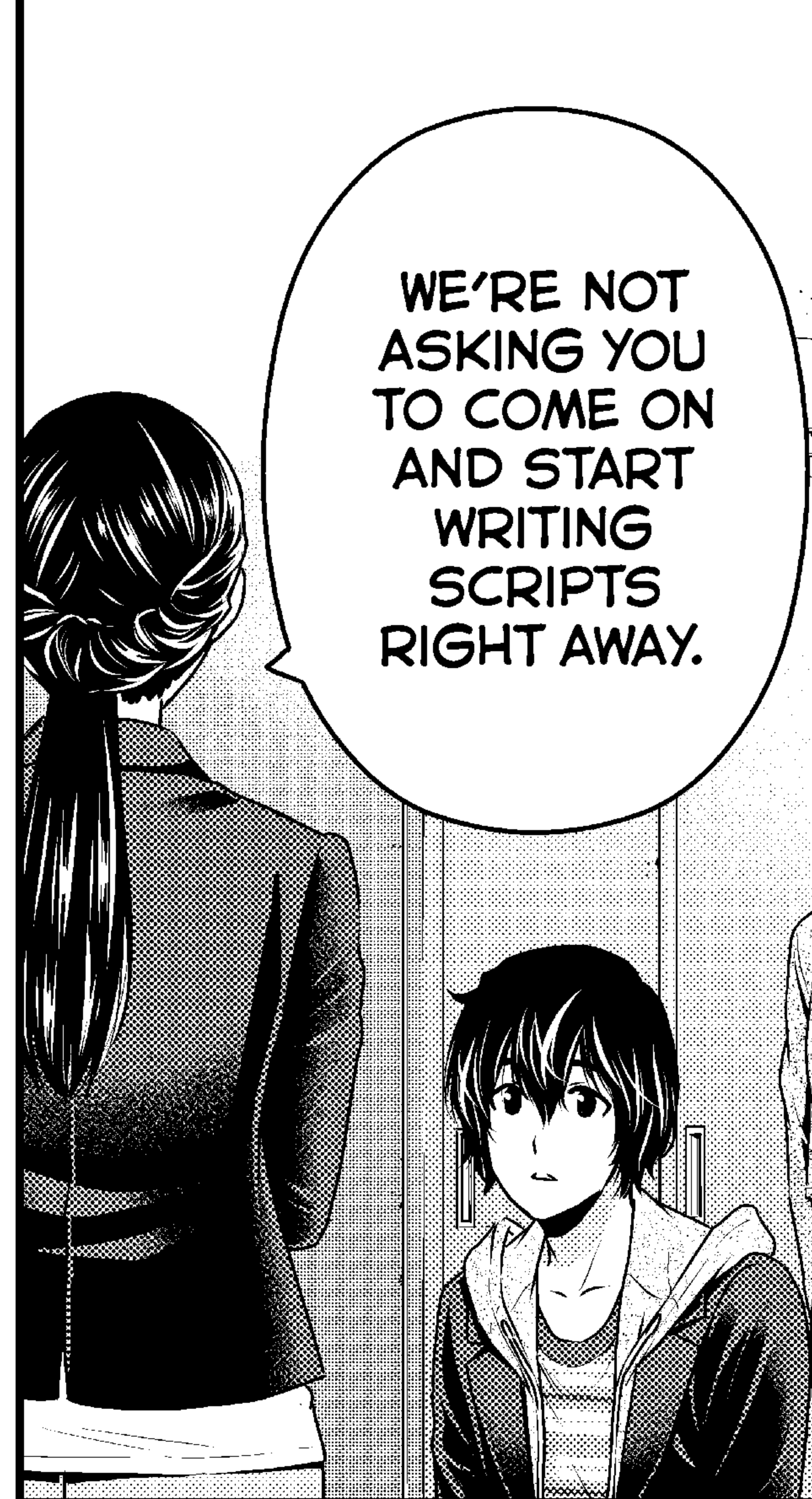


SO, WE'D LIKE TO TRAIN SOMEONE TO TAKE HER PLACE WHEN SHE GRADUATES.

WE ALREADY HAVE A TALENTED SCRIPT-WRITER,

BUT SHE'S A SENIOR THIS YEAR.

WE'RE THINKING OF HAVING YOU STUDY UNDER HER TO START OUT IF YOU DO JOIN.

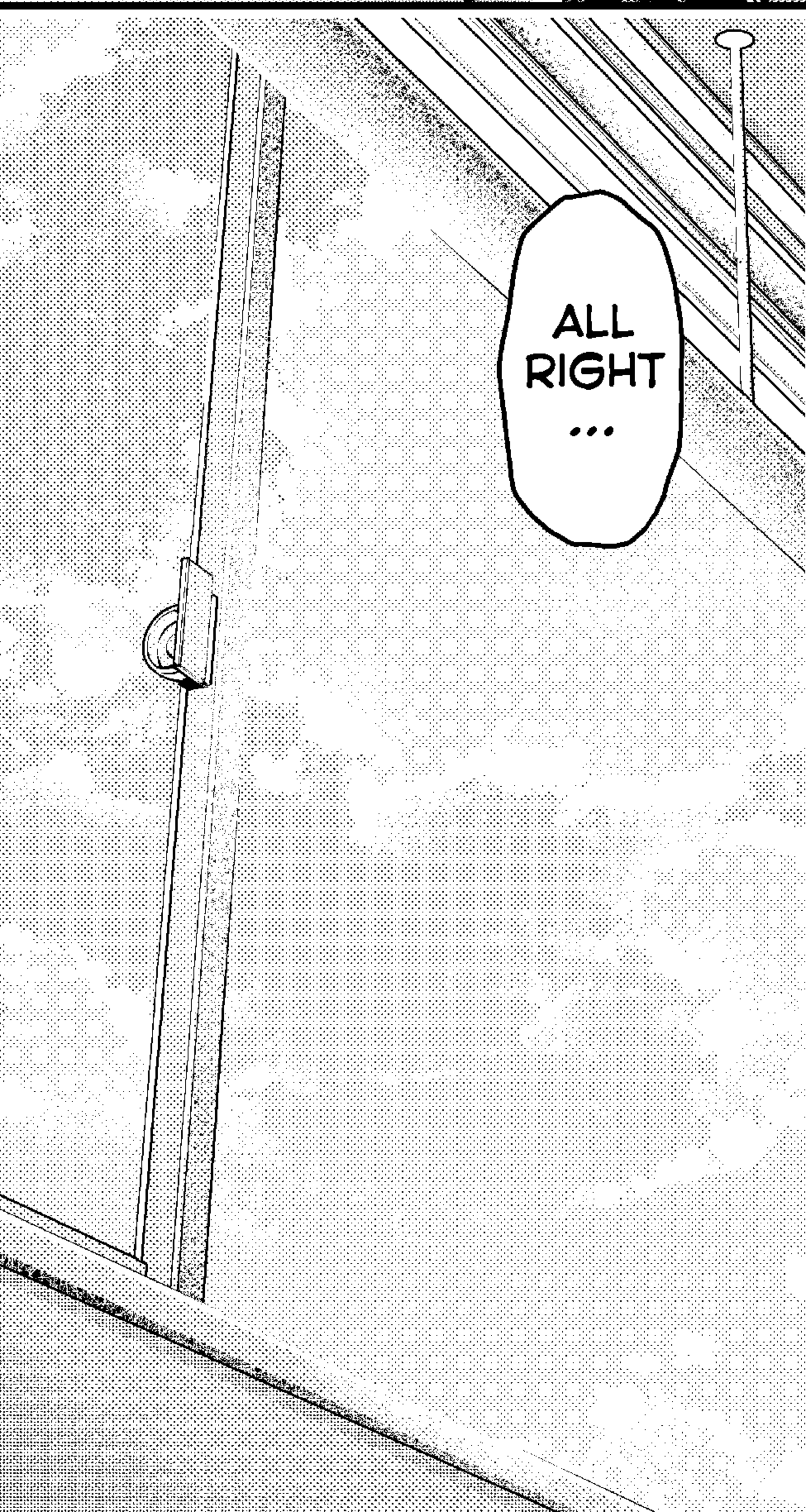


WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU TO COME ON AND START WRITING SCRIPTS RIGHT AWAY.



I THINK IT'D BE A GOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.

PERSONALLY,



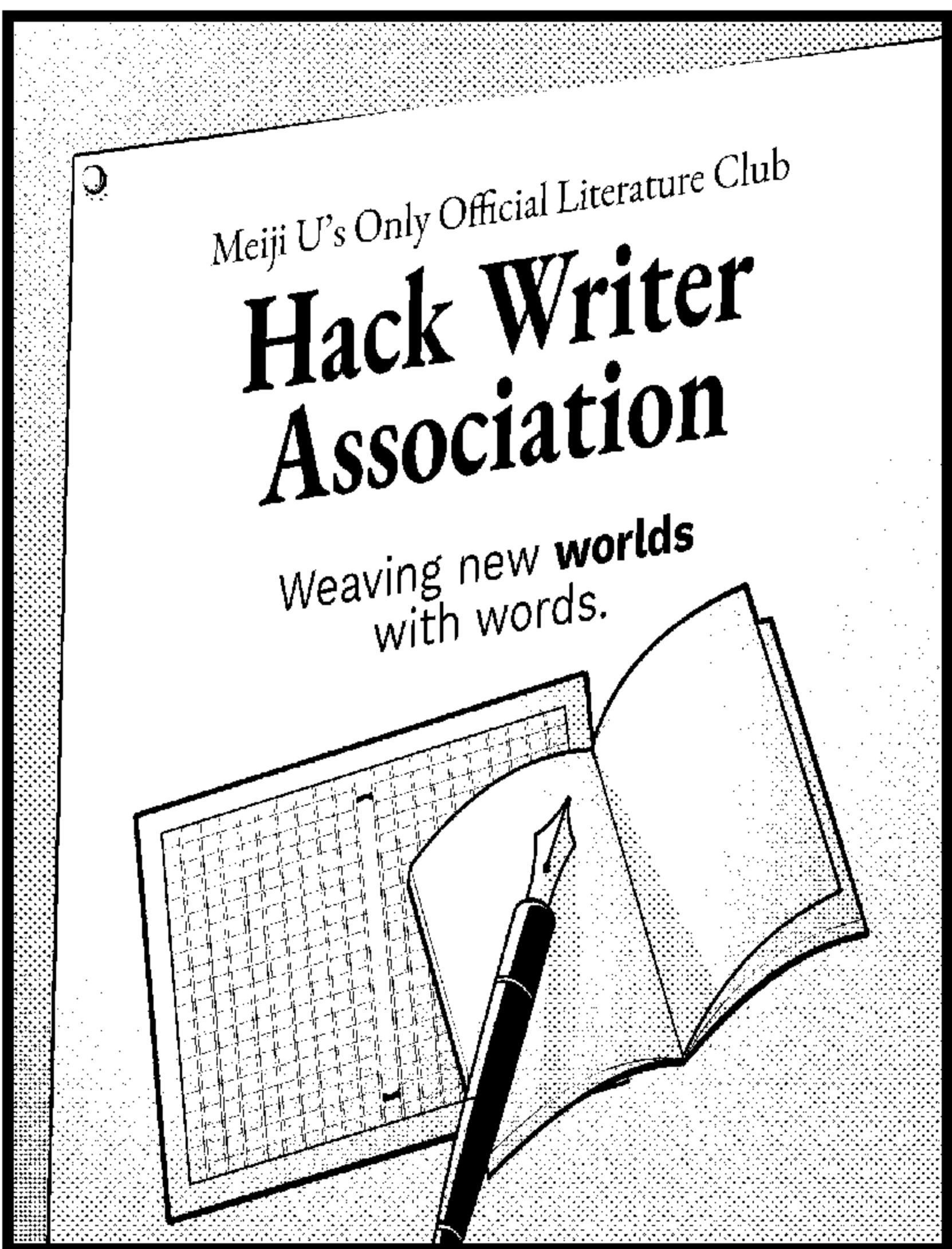
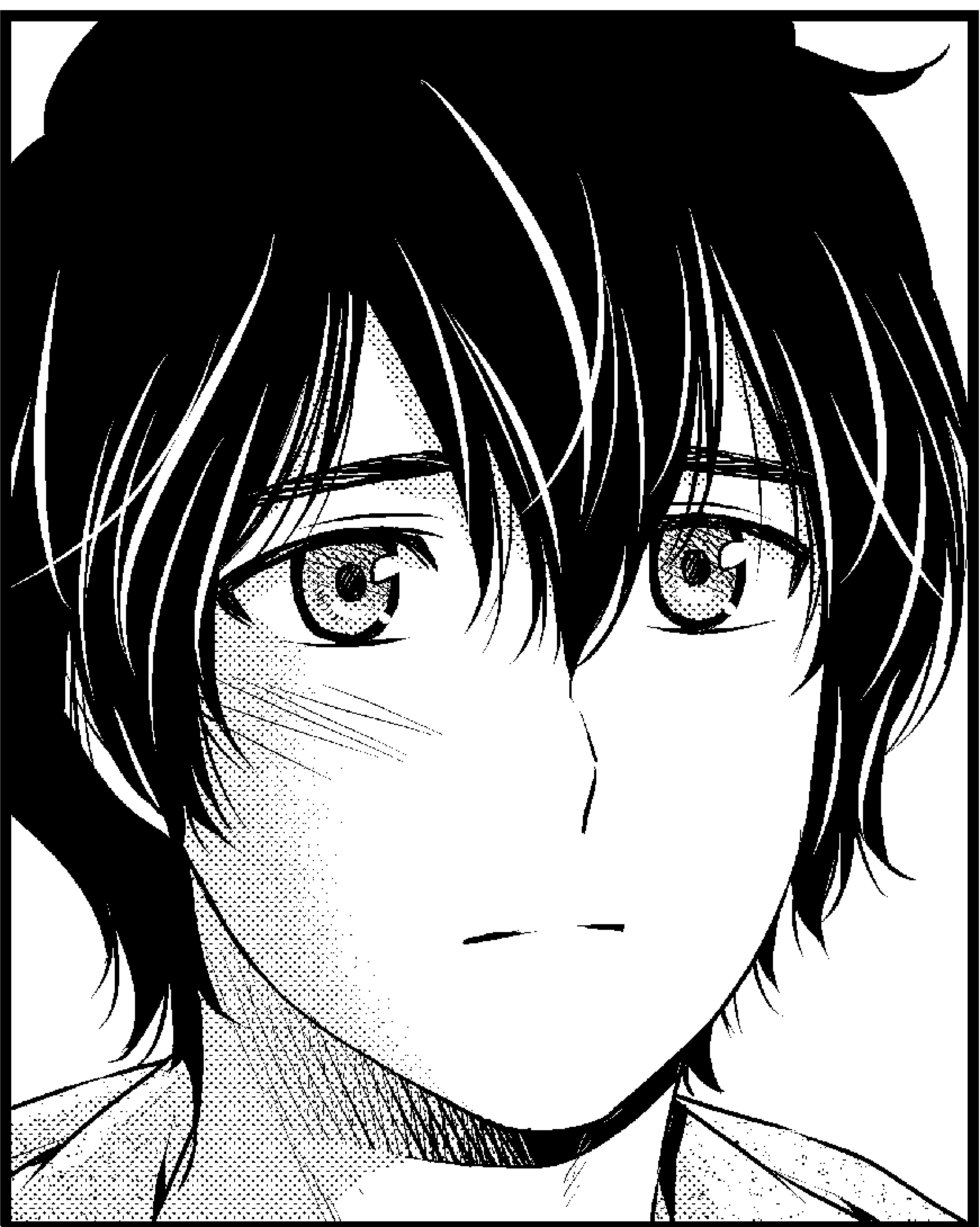
ALL RIGHT ...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW.

THINK IT OVER.

















BUT WHEN  
I ACTU-  
ALLY GOT  
AROUND TO  
READING IT,

I WAS  
HOOKED  
BEFORE I  
KNEW IT.

AT FIRST,  
I JUST  
THOUGHT,

"HE WON  
AN AWARD?!  
AWESOME!  
LET'S MAKE  
A PLAY OUT  
OF IT!"

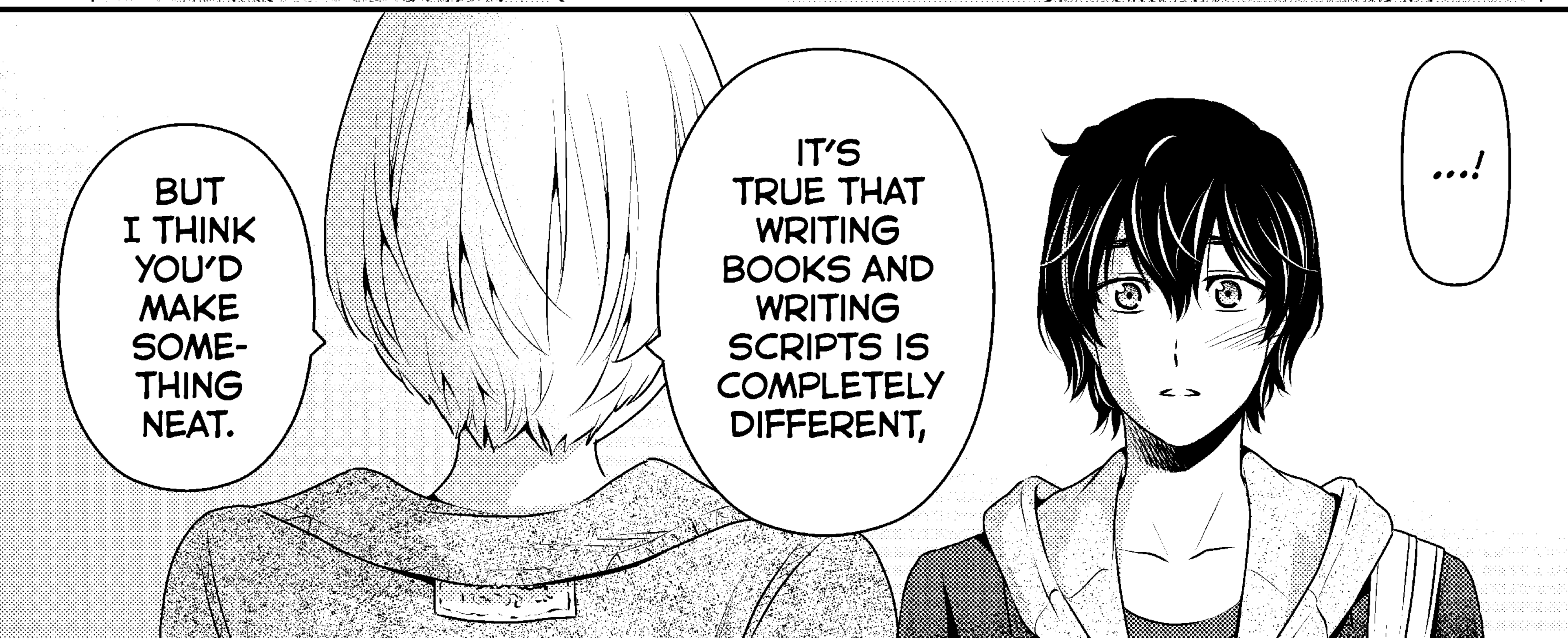


I READ  
YOUR  
STORY.



**...WHAT  
SORT OF  
PLAYS YOU  
COULD  
COME UP  
WITH.**

**IT MADE  
ME WANT  
TO SEE...**

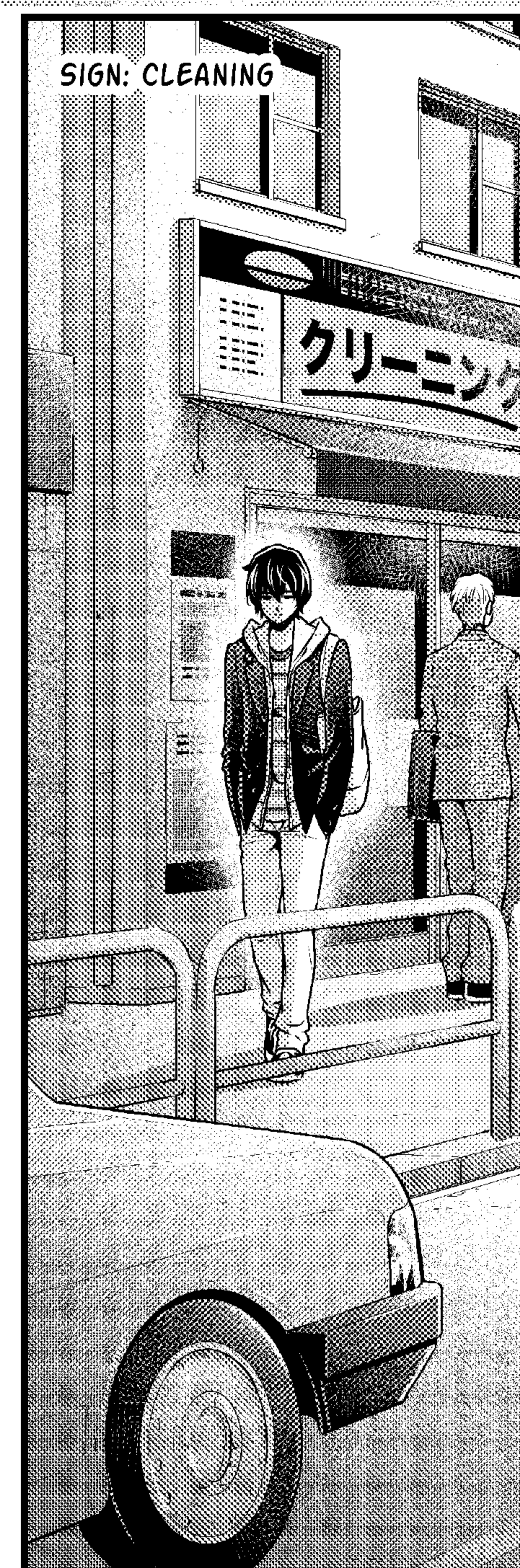
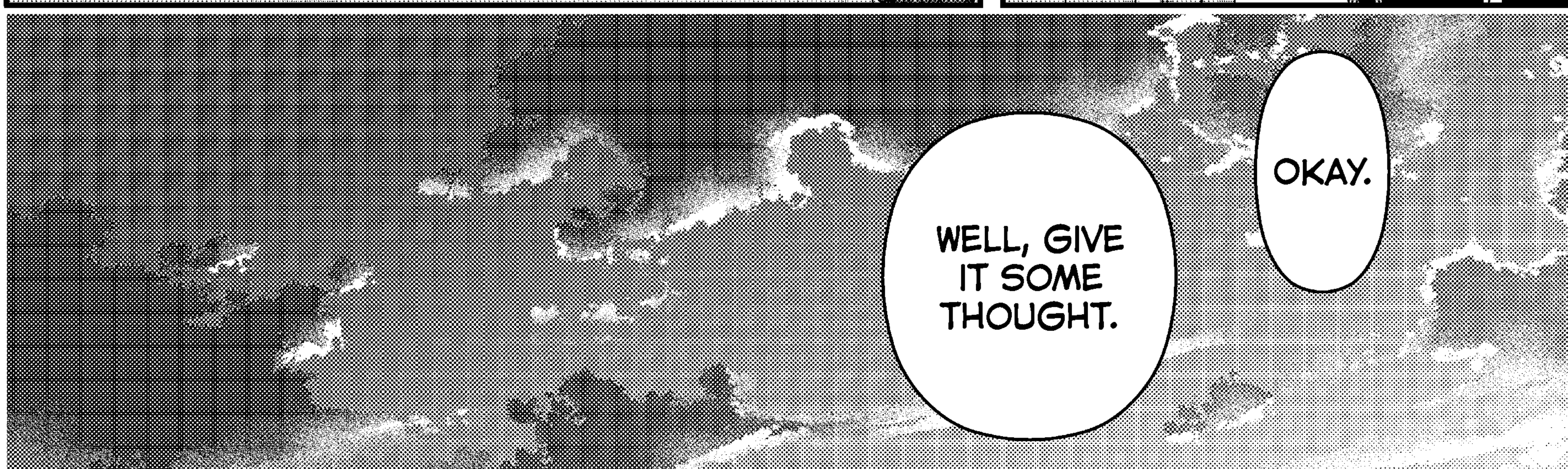


BUT  
I THINK  
YOU'D  
MAKE  
SOME-  
THING  
NEAT.

IT'S  
TRUE THAT  
WRITING  
BOOKS AND  
WRITING  
SCRIPTS IS  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT,

...!







BUT IN TERMS OF  
ACTIVITIES, I'LL BE  
DOING THE SAME  
THING I'VE DONE  
UNTIL NOW.

THAT WON'T CHANGE.

IF I JOIN THE  
LITERATURE  
CLUB...

...I'M SURE I'LL STILL  
MEET INTERESTING  
PEOPLE AND HAVE ALL  
KINDS OF STIMULATING  
EXPERIENCES,



MAYBE THIS  
IS A GOOD  
CHANCE TO  
DIVE INTO A  
FIELD I KNOW  
NOTHING  
ABOUT!

NOW THAT  
I'M THE  
MASTER  
OF MY OWN  
TIME,



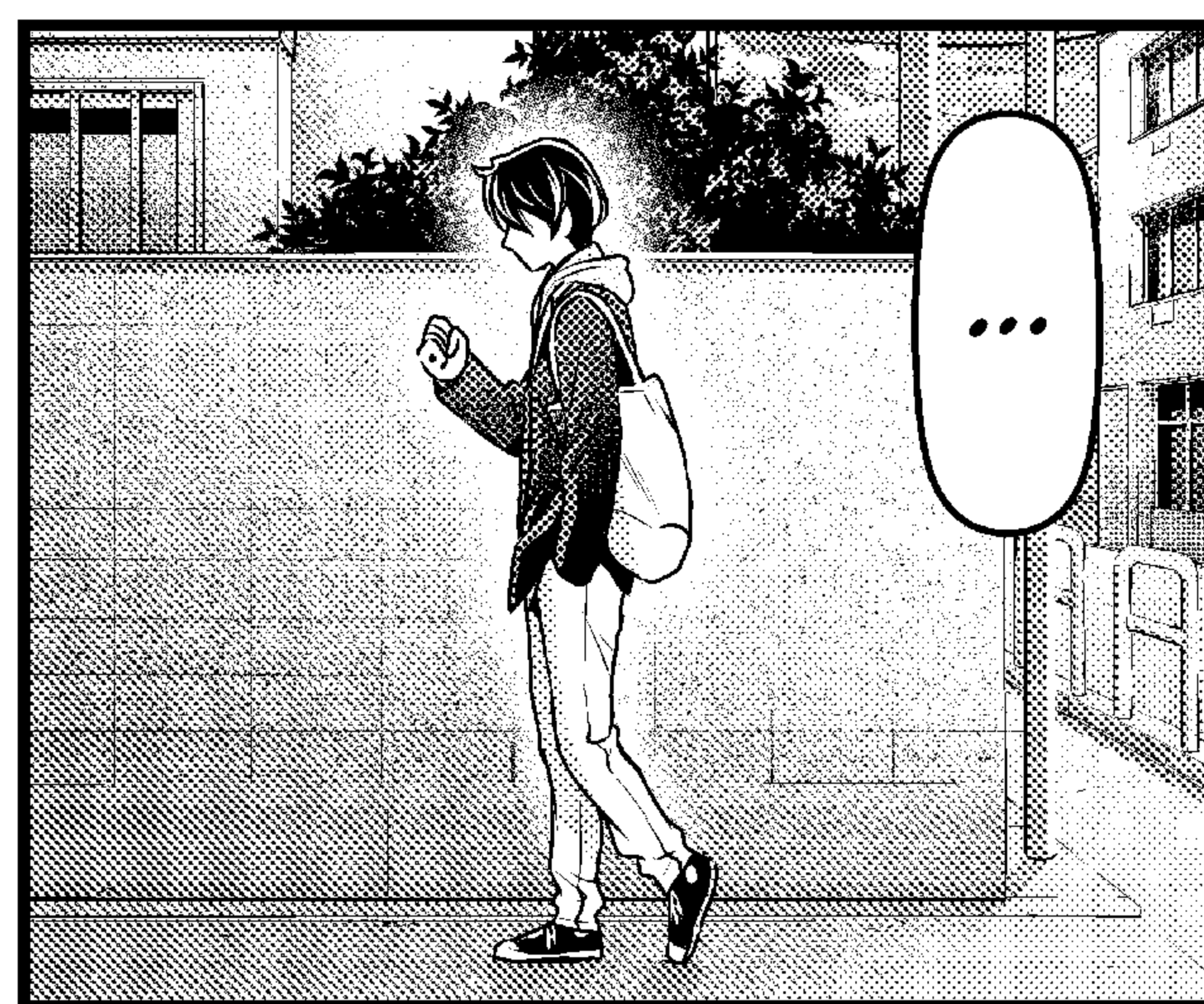
WHOA,  
WHOA.  
GETTING  
HOMESICK  
ALREADY?

THACK

BUT,  
Y'KNOW,  
COMING  
HOME TO  
AN EMPTY,  
MESSY  
ROOM...

IS  
KINDA  
LONELY.

WELL,  
I COULD  
ALWAYS  
JUST CALL  
HER.



...

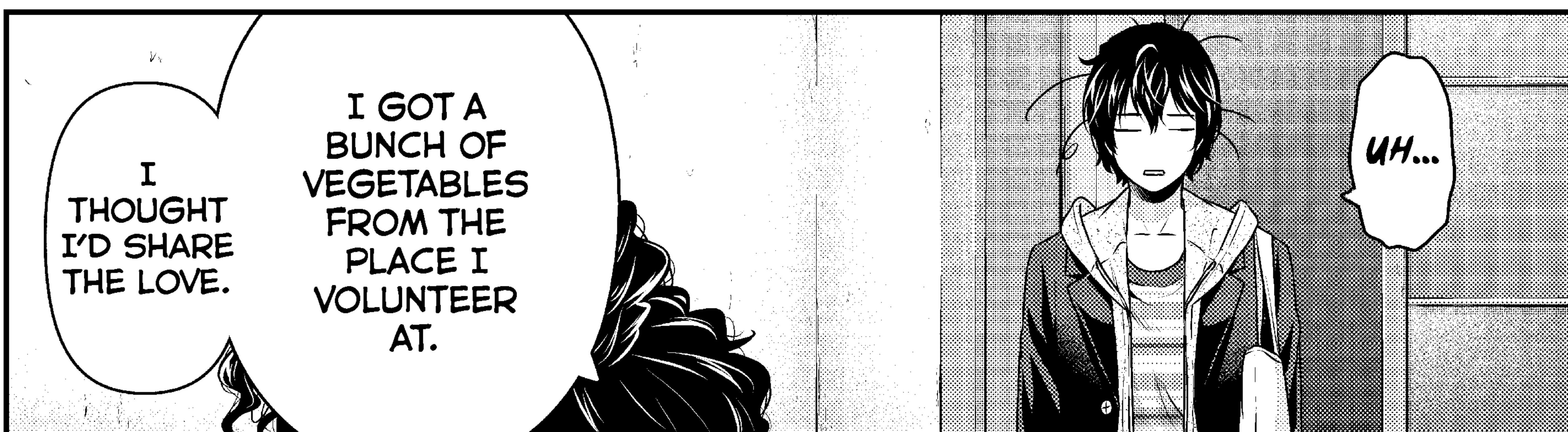


I WANNA  
HEAR  
WHAT SHE  
THINKS!

I  
REALLY  
WANNA  
TALK  
TO RUI  
RIGHT  
NOW!

AAH!



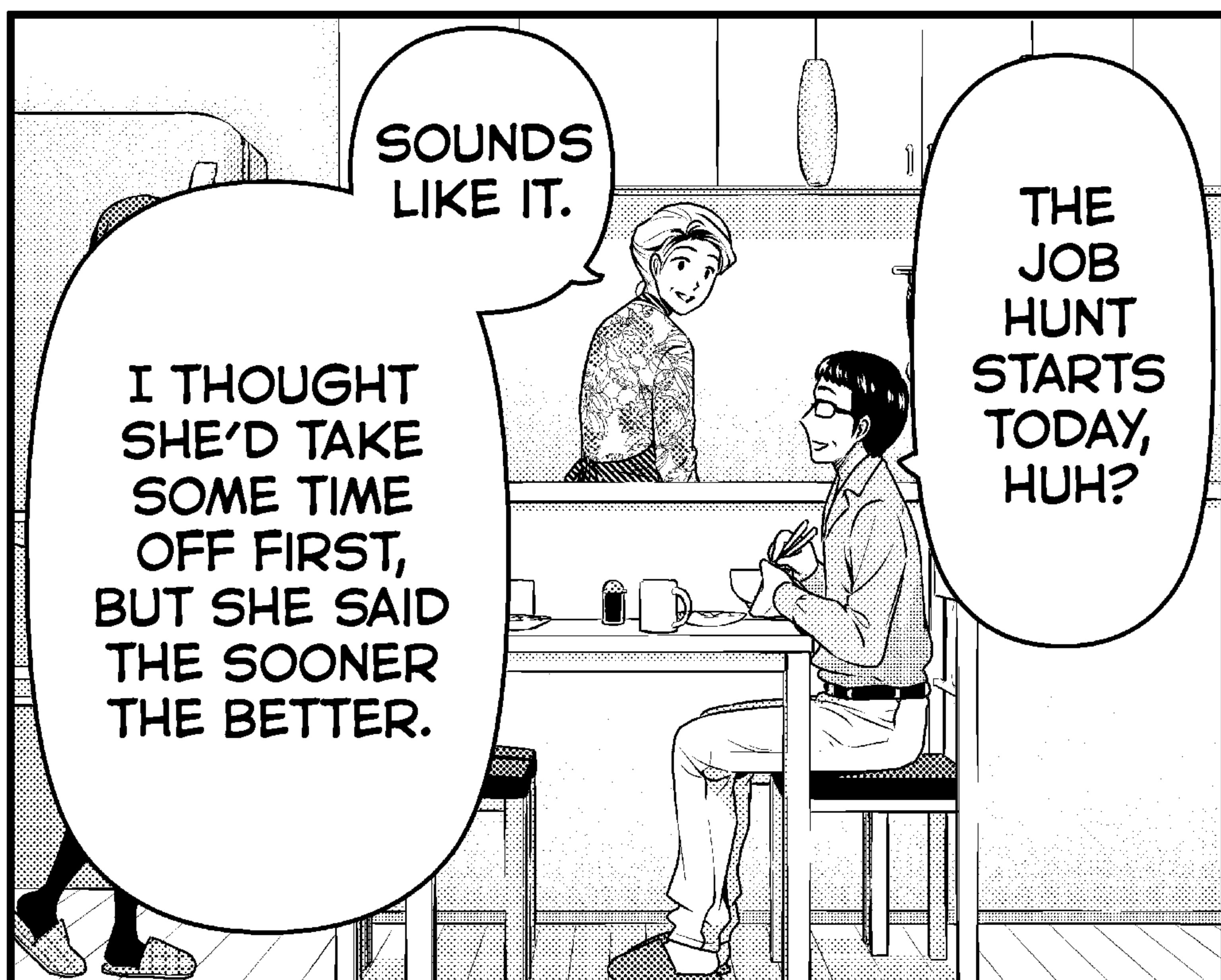






## CHAPTER 140: JOB HUNTING

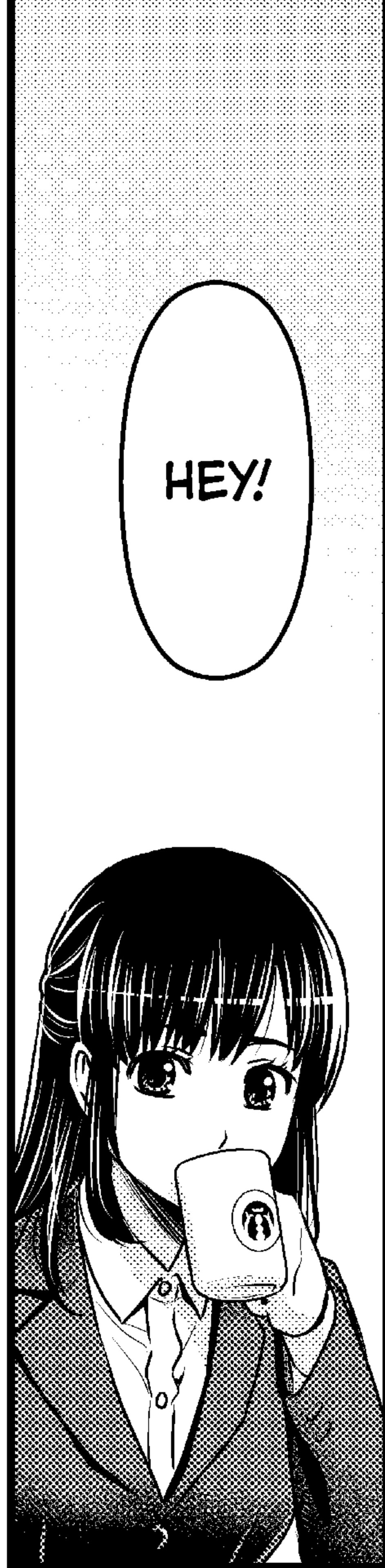




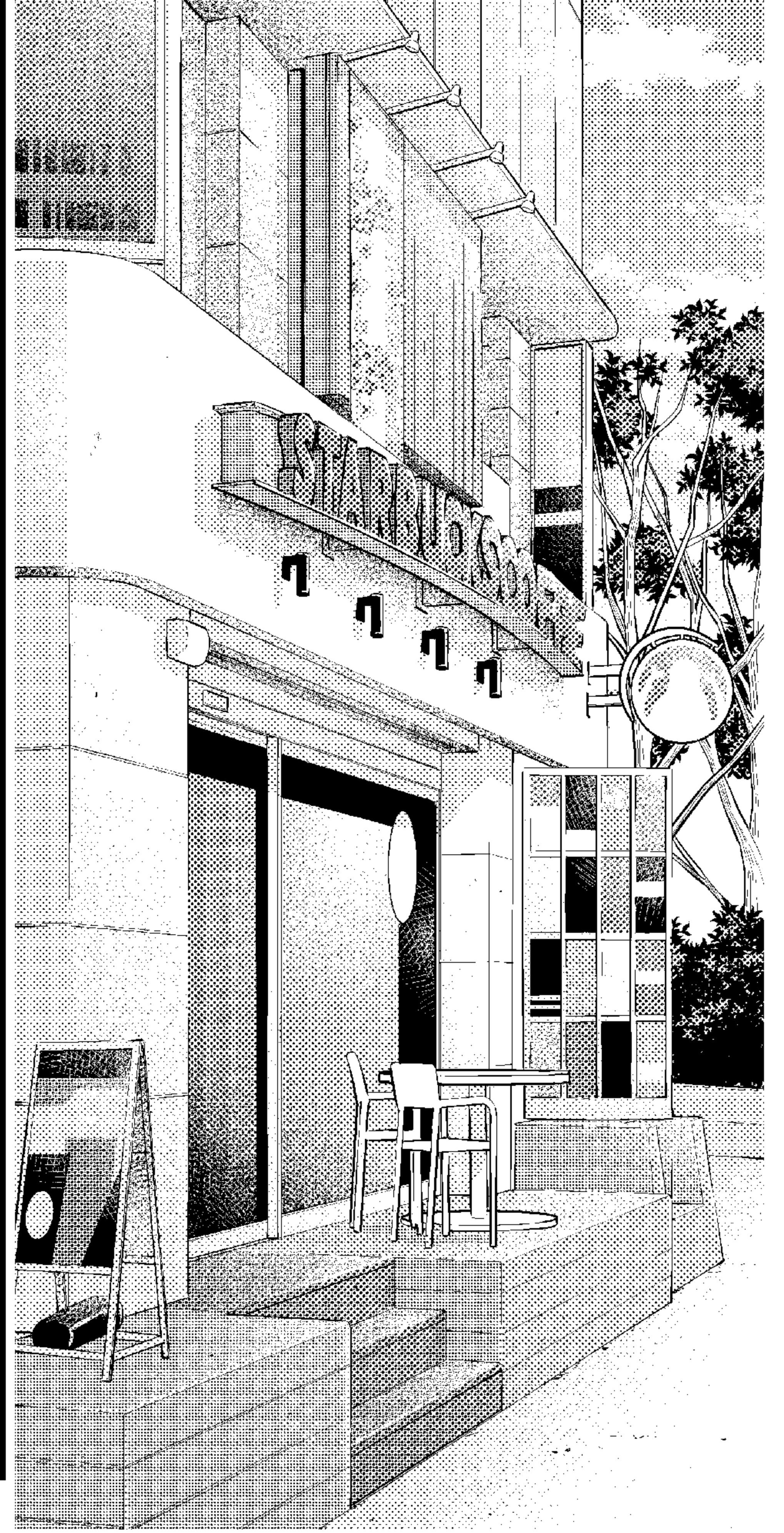




LOOKIN'  
GOOD!  
NICE SUIT.



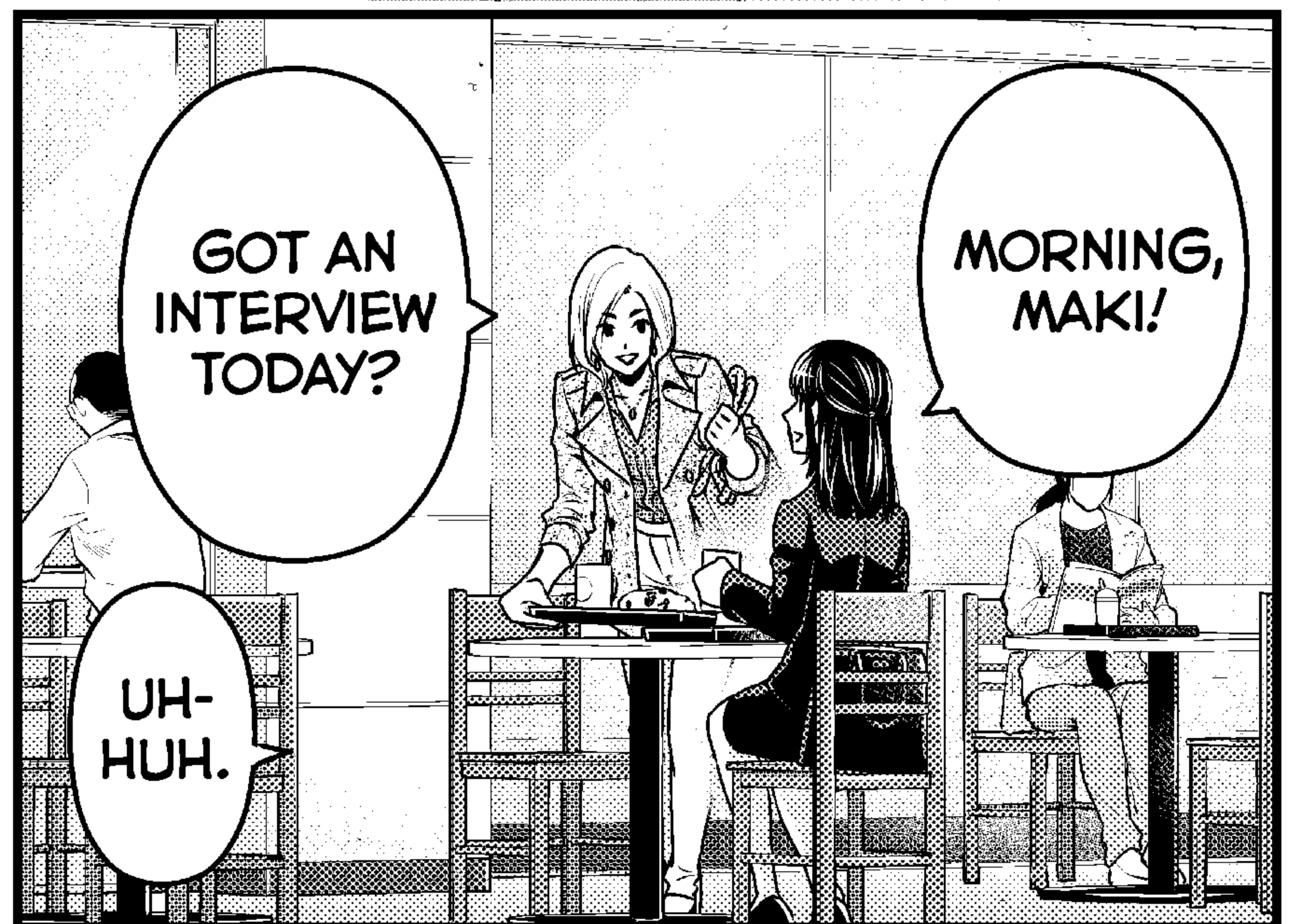
HEY!



DO I  
LOOK  
WEIRD?

I HAVEN'T  
FELT THIS  
NERVOUS  
IN A  
WHILE.

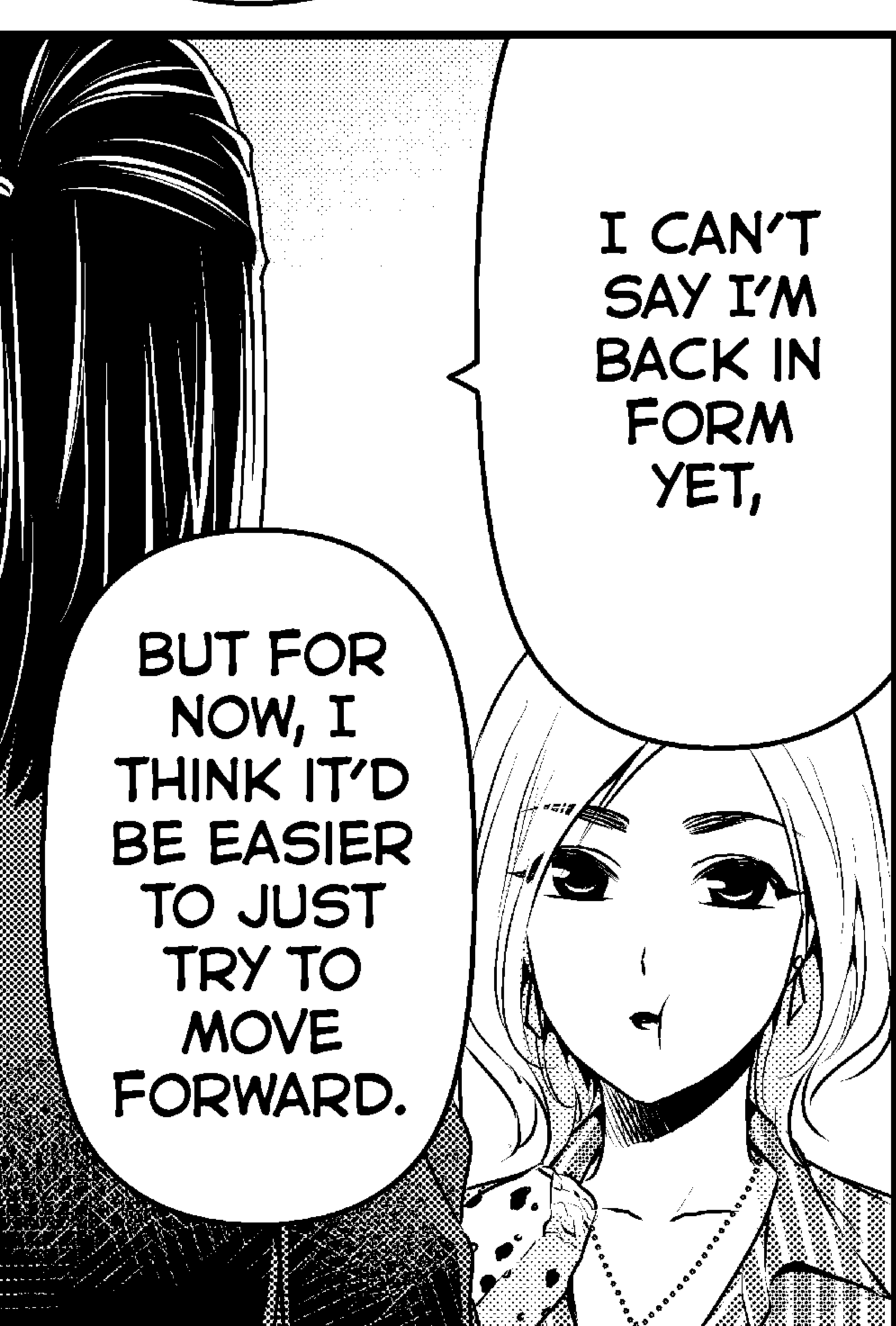
I'D SAY  
YOU STILL  
PASS AS  
A FRESH  
GRADUATE.



GOT AN  
INTERVIEW  
TODAY?

MORNING,  
MAKI!

UH-  
HUH.



I CAN'T  
SAY I'M  
BACK IN  
FORM  
YET,

BUT FOR  
NOW, I  
THINK IT'D  
BE EASIER  
TO JUST  
TRY TO  
MOVE  
FORWARD.



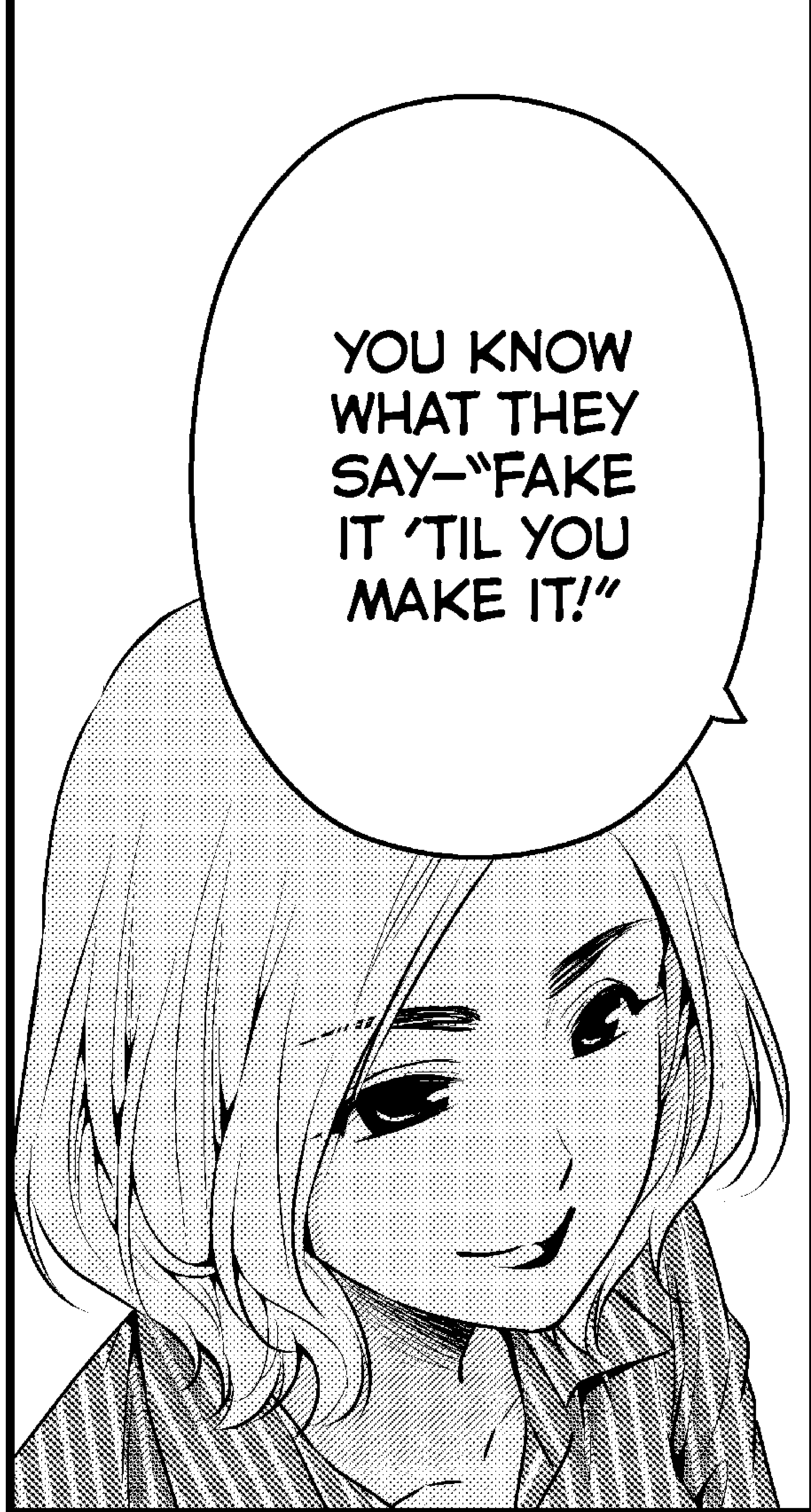
I THOUGHT  
IT'D BE BEST  
TO GO WITH  
A JOB THAT  
USES  
ENGLISH.

A TRANS-  
LATION  
SERVICE  
COMPANY.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
HAVE  
LINED UP  
TODAY?

GOTCHA.



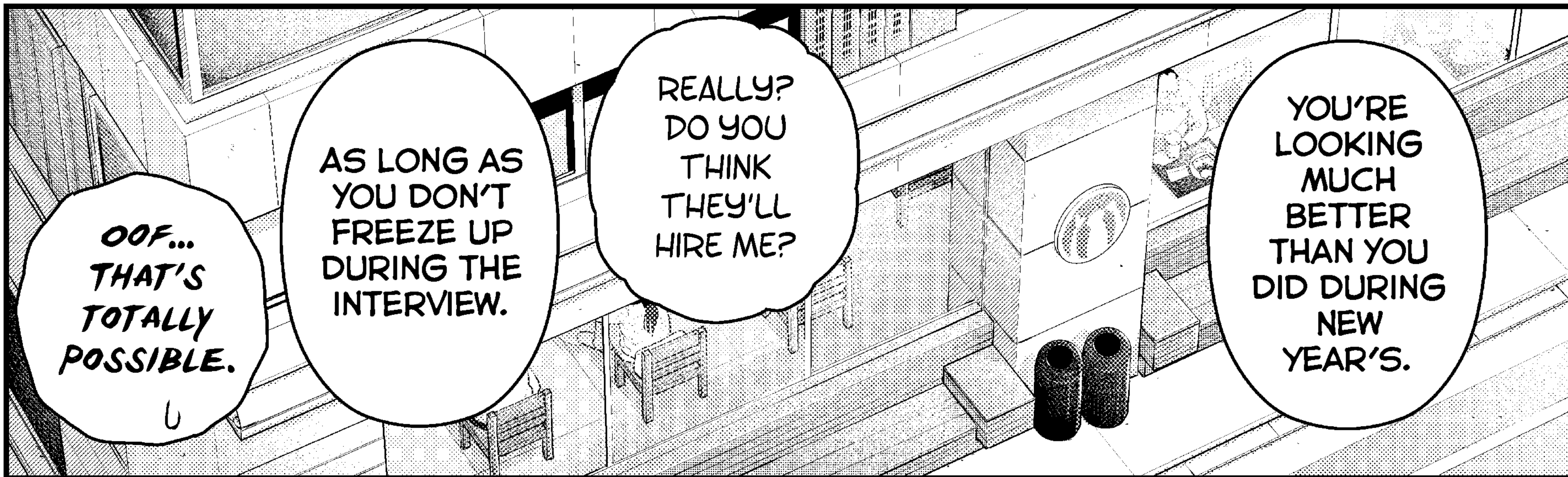


YOU KNOW  
WHAT THEY  
SAY—"FAKE  
IT 'TIL YOU  
MAKE IT!"



...WHO  
CAN  
BETTER  
MY LIFE.

IN THE  
END, I'M  
THE ONLY  
ONE...



OOF...  
THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
POSSIBLE.

AS LONG AS  
YOU DON'T  
FREEZE UP  
DURING THE  
INTERVIEW.

REALLY?  
DO YOU  
THINK  
THEY'LL  
HIRE ME?

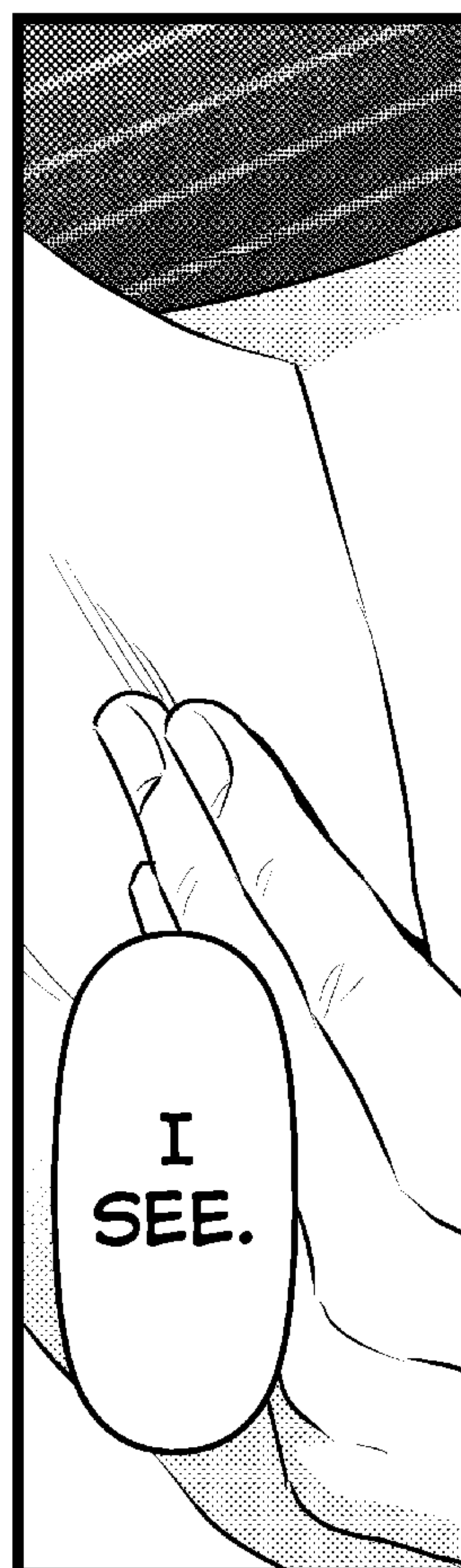
YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
MUCH  
BETTER  
THAN YOU  
DID DURING  
NEW  
YEAR'S.



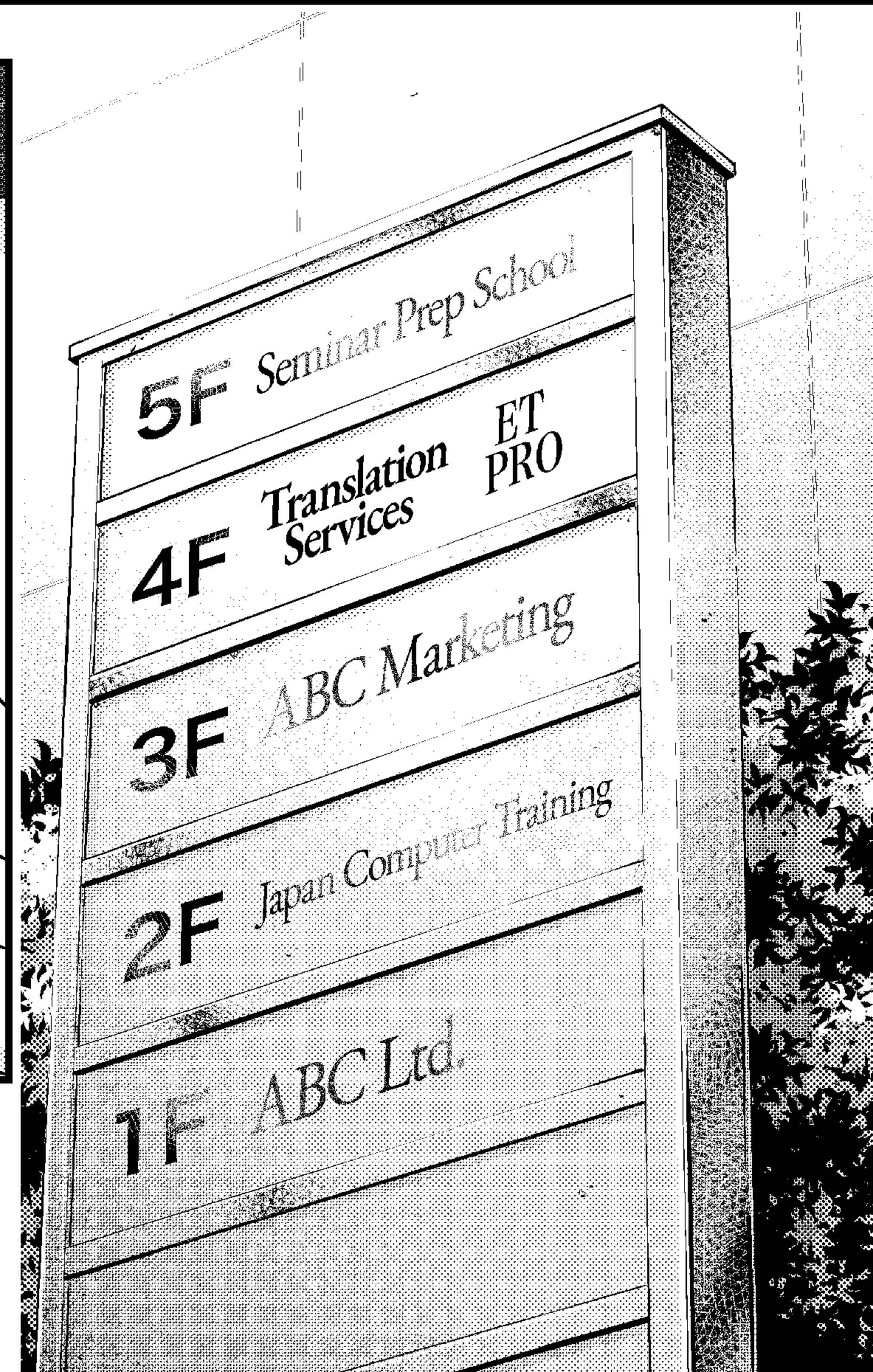
AND  
I SEE  
YOUR  
TOEIC\*  
SCORE  
IS 830  
...

IT SAYS  
HERE YOU'VE  
STUDIED  
ABROAD  
DURING  
COLLEGE.

YES,  
SIR.



I  
SEE.



5F Seminar Prep School

4F Translation Services ET PRO

3F ABC Marketing

2F Japan Computer Training

1F ABC Ltd.





U-  
UNDER-  
STOOD!



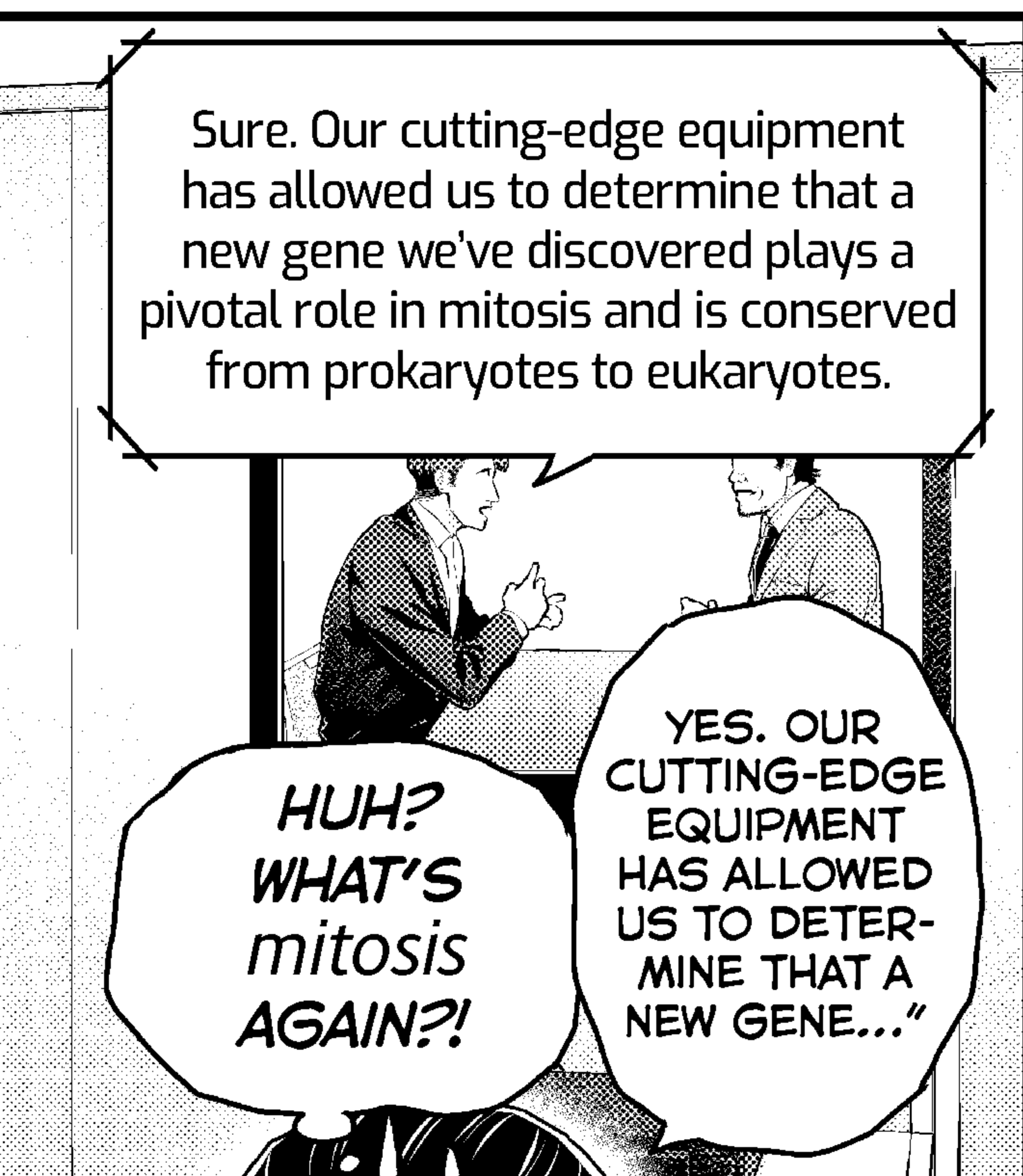
PLEASE  
TRANSLATE  
THE FOLLOW-  
ING VIDEO IN  
REAL TIME.

BOOP  
BEEP

WE'D LIKE TO  
MEASURE YOUR  
PRACTICAL  
SKILL NOW,  
IF THAT'S  
ALL RIGHT.

VERY  
WELL.

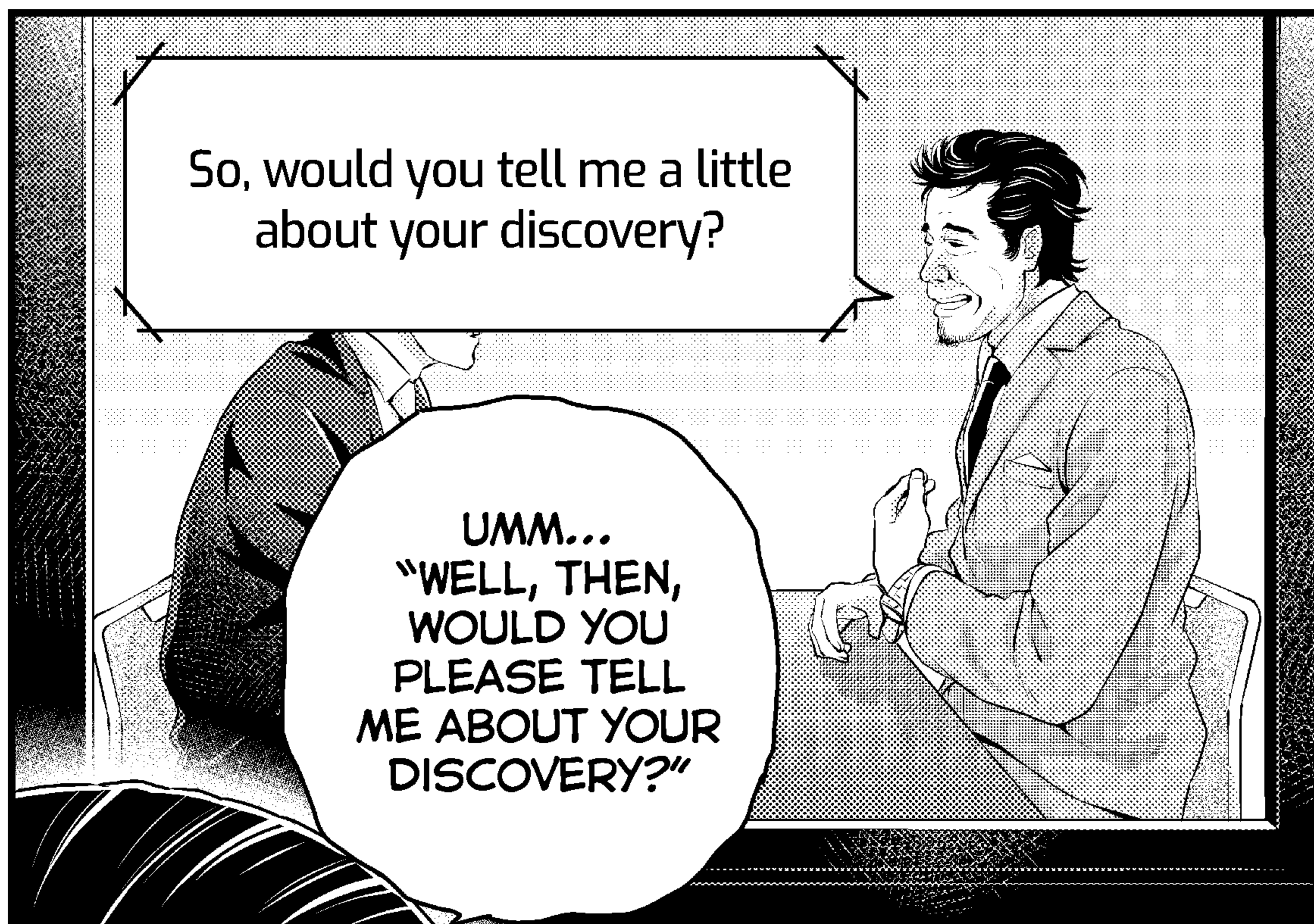
UH...



Sure. Our cutting-edge equipment  
has allowed us to determine that a  
new gene we've discovered plays a  
pivotal role in mitosis and is conserved  
from prokaryotes to eukaryotes.

HUH?  
WHAT'S  
mitosis  
AGAIN?!

YES. OUR  
CUTTING-EDGE  
EQUIPMENT  
HAS ALLOWED  
US TO DETER-  
MINE THAT A  
NEW GENE..."



So, would you tell me a little  
about your discovery?

UMM...  
"WELL, THEN,  
WOULD YOU  
PLEASE TELL  
ME ABOUT YOUR  
DISCOVERY?"



I'M  
SORRY.

I'M NOT  
FAMILIAR  
WITH THE  
TERMI-  
NOLOGY.

BOOP  
BEEP



metathesis  
eukaryotes  
substrate  
prokaryote  
cyclation  
uh...

UMM  
...

ACIDITY  
CONSTANT

mic



NATURALLY,  
A FIRM GRASP  
OF NUANCE AND  
MENTAL DEXTERITY  
IS REQUIRED  
TO ADEQUATELY  
CONVEY TECHNICAL  
TERMS WHENEVER  
THEY ARE  
PRESENTED.

MANY OF THE  
COMMISSIONS  
OUR COMPANY  
RECEIVES TAKE  
PLACE IN A  
BUSINESS  
SETTING.

THEN  
I'M  
AFRAID  
...

IF YOU WERE  
UNABLE TO  
UNDERSTAND  
THE CONVER-  
SATION  
JUST NOW,

とぉお  
DWO

GO?!

おん...  
OOM

I'M  
HOME!

HEY,  
HINA-CHAN!  
HOW'D YOUR  
INTERVIEW—





I THOUGHT MY  
ENGLISH WAS  
PRETTY GOOD,  
BUT I FELL FLAT  
ON MY FACE...

I SEE...



I GUESS  
IT DIDN'T  
GO SO  
WELL.

I CAN  
BARELY  
SEE A  
THING!

WH-WHAT'S  
WITH THESE  
DARK  
CLOUDS?!



BUT  
THINGS  
WON'T  
ALWAYS  
BE BAD.

JUST  
CHEER UP  
AND LOOK  
FOR YOUR  
NEXT OP-  
PORTUNITY.

I'VE BEEN  
THROUGH  
THE GRIND  
OF SWITCHING  
CAREERS,

SO I  
KNOW  
HOW  
HARD  
IT IS,



BUT, THIS  
WAS ONLY  
THE FIRST  
COMPANY,  
RIGHT?



I'LL DO  
MY BEST  
TOMORROW,  
TOO!

YOU'RE  
RIGHT  
...



JUST  
TAKE IT  
SLOW,

OKAY  
?

AS LONG  
AS YOU KEEP  
MOVING,  
YOU'LL SEE  
THE LIGHT AT  
THE END OF  
THE TUNNEL  
EVENTUALLY.









I'M NOT DEPRESSED BECAUSE NO ONE WILL HIRE ME.

MAKI, YOU KNOW...

SHH

GUESS IT'S NOT SO EASY AFTER ALL, HUH?

OOF ...

BLUB

BLUB

BLUB

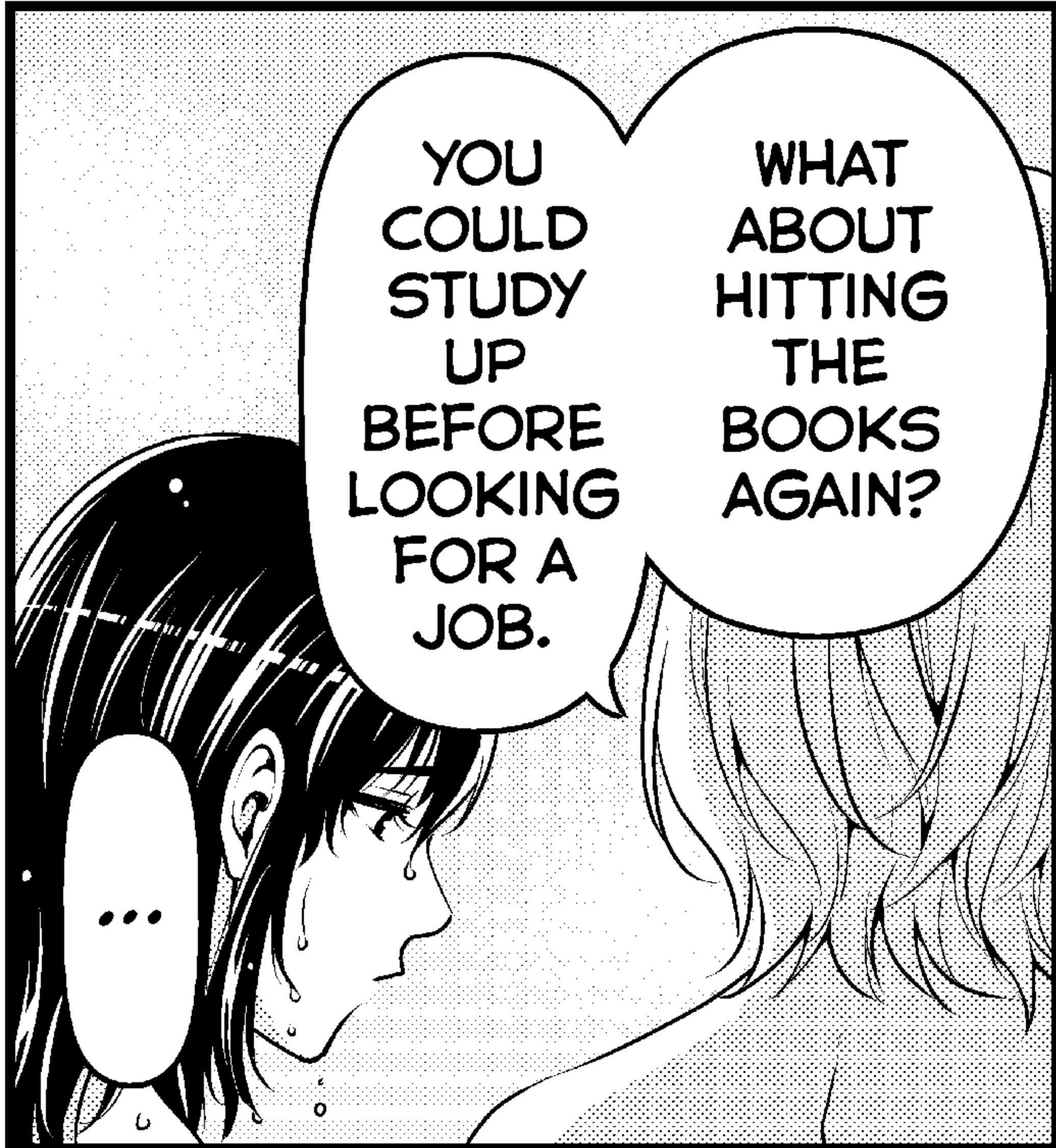
I'M JUST A BALL OF DISAPPOINTMENT OVER MY OWN WORTHLESSNESS ...



I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE MY PARENTS ANY MORE TROUBLE ...

AFTER HOW MUCH I MADE THEM WORRY.

IT'S GONNA BE EXPENSIVE TO GET MYSELF TO AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL OF ENGLISH. THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DO STUDYING ON MY OWN.



YOU COULD STUDY UP BEFORE LOOKING FOR A JOB.

WHAT ABOUT HITTING THE BOOKS AGAIN?

...



MAKING MONEY'S HARD, NO MATTER WHAT JOB YOU HAVE.

THAT'S RIGHT ...

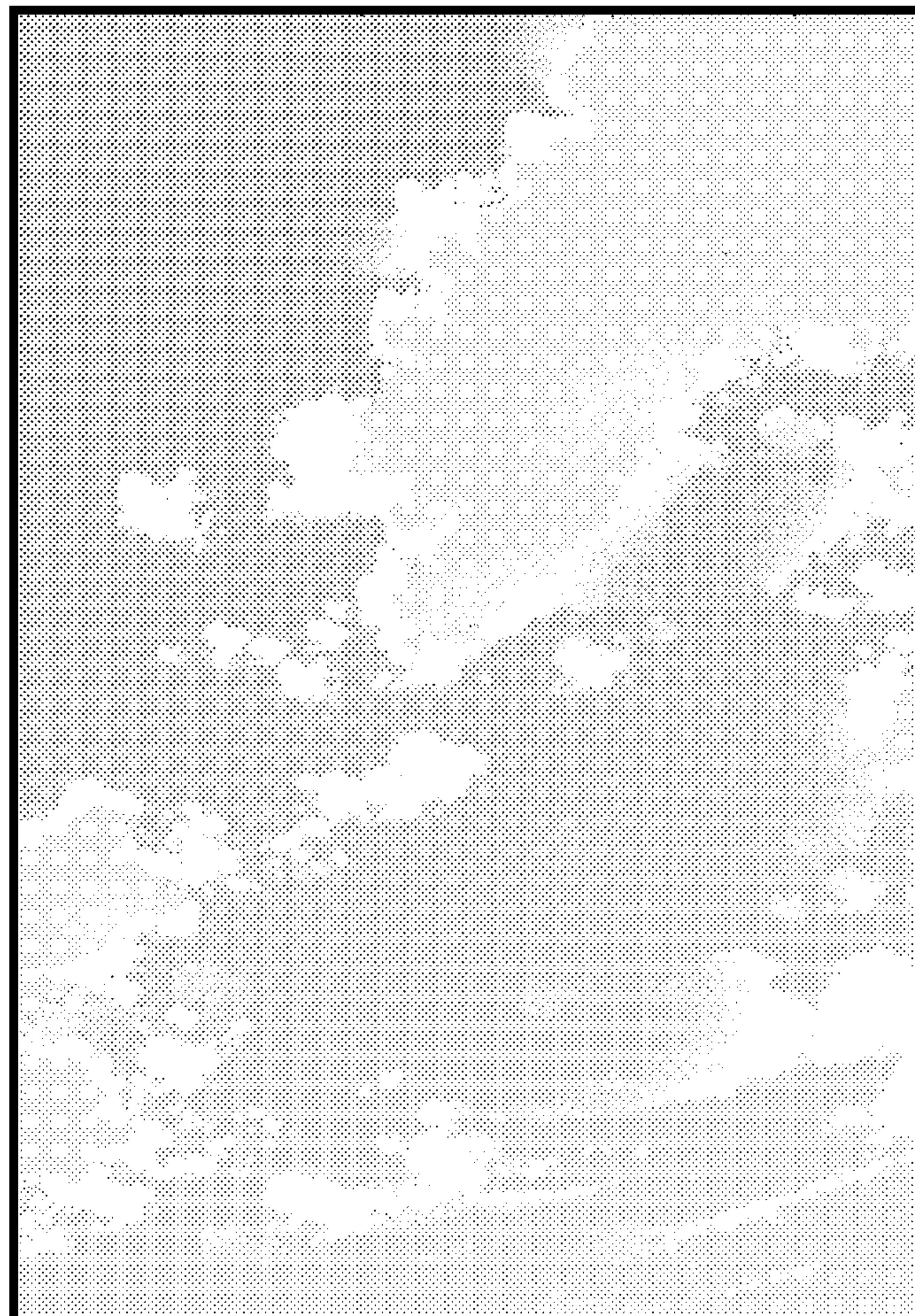
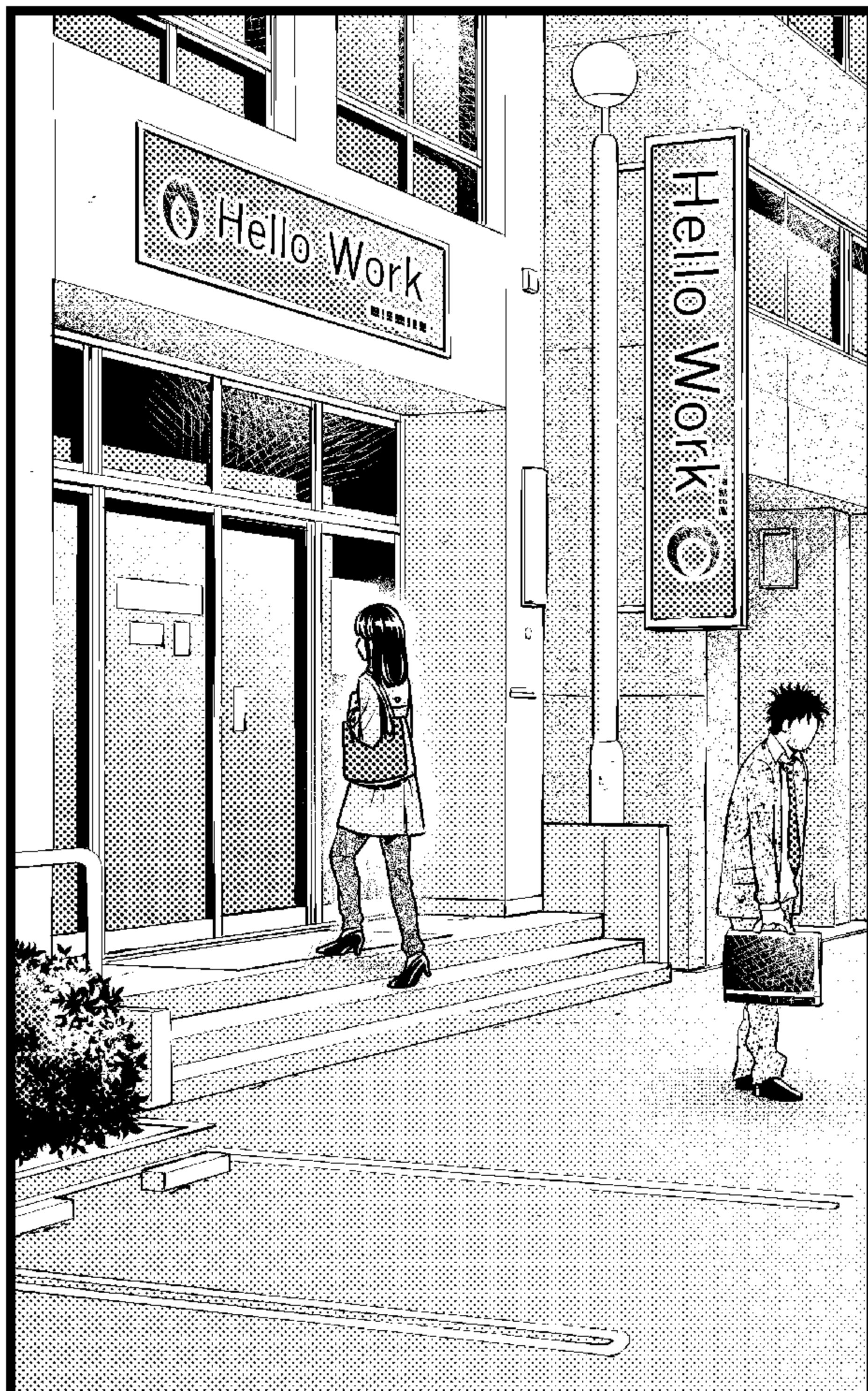
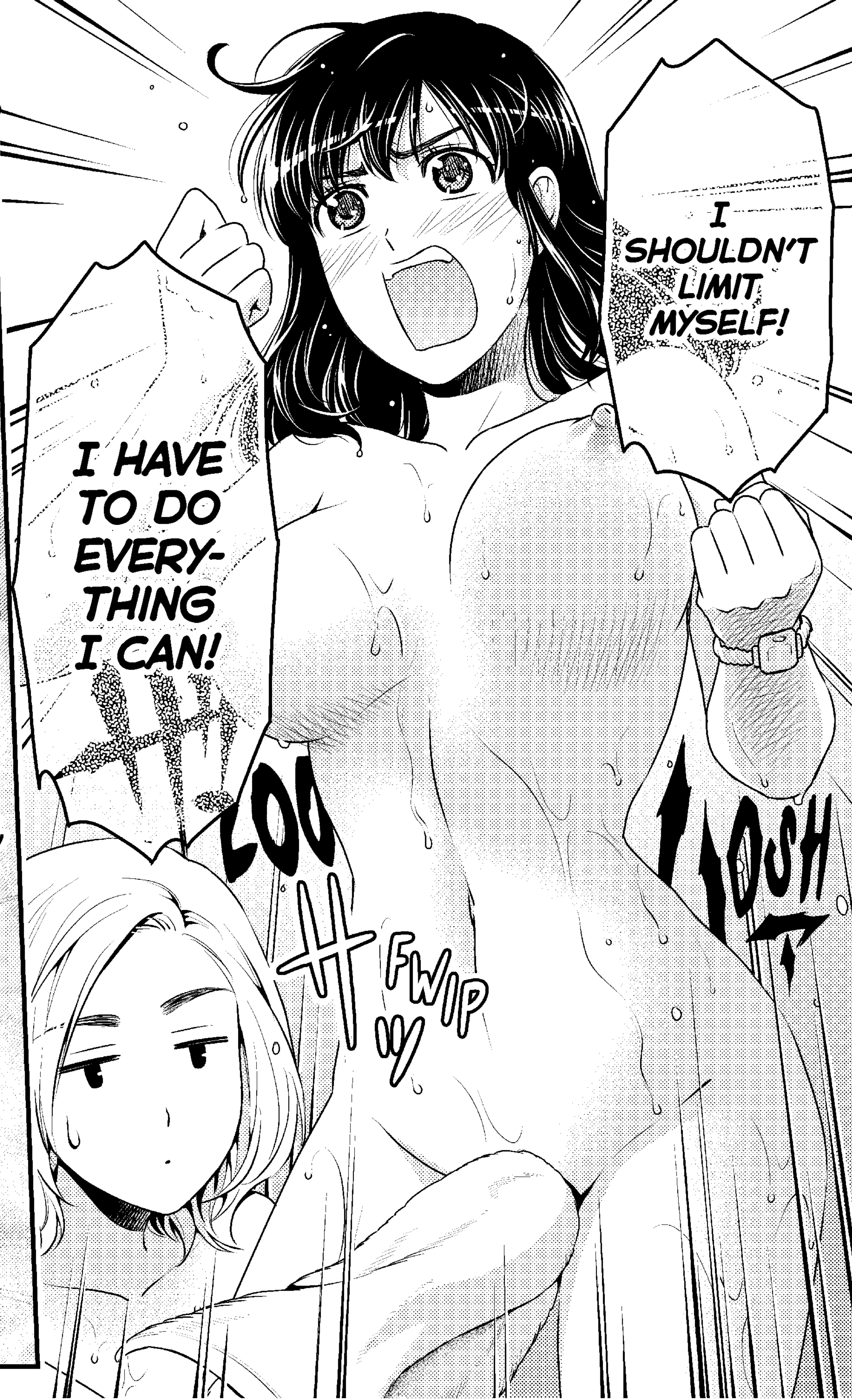


TWITCH

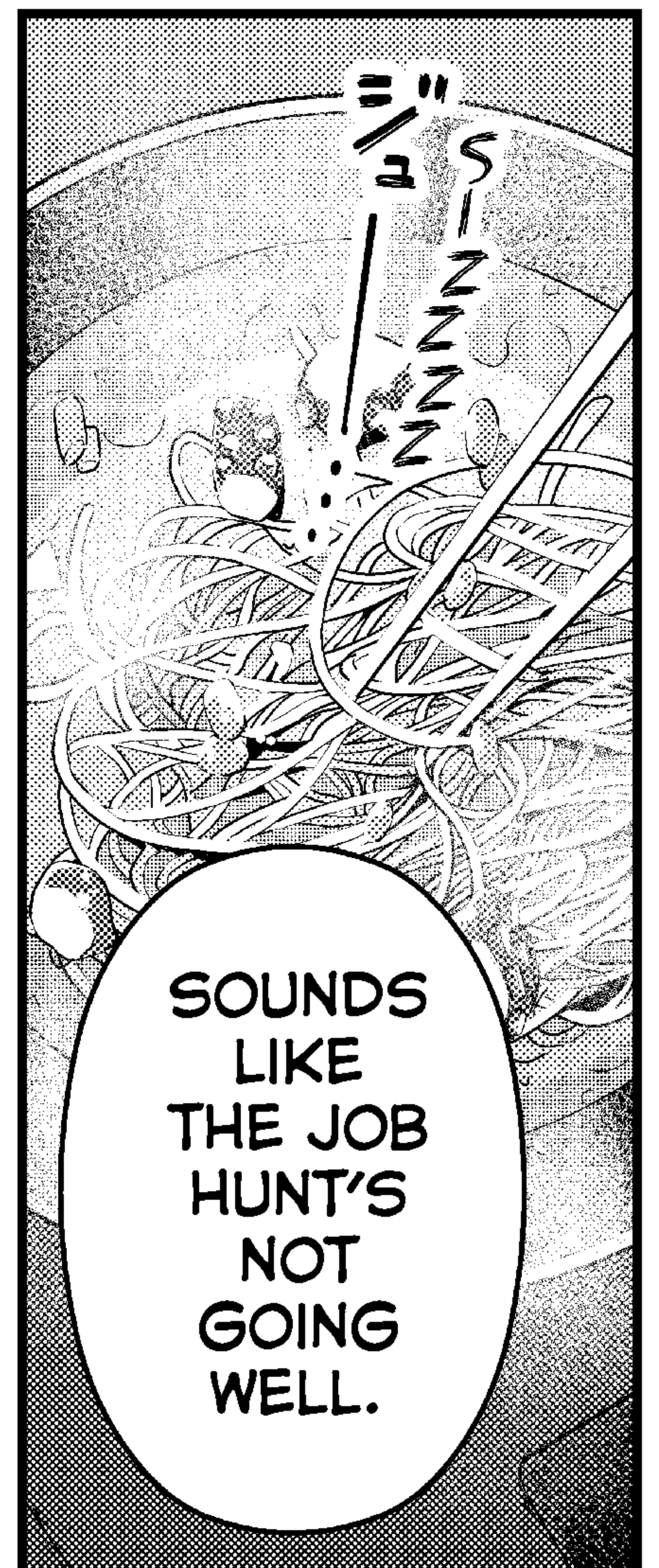
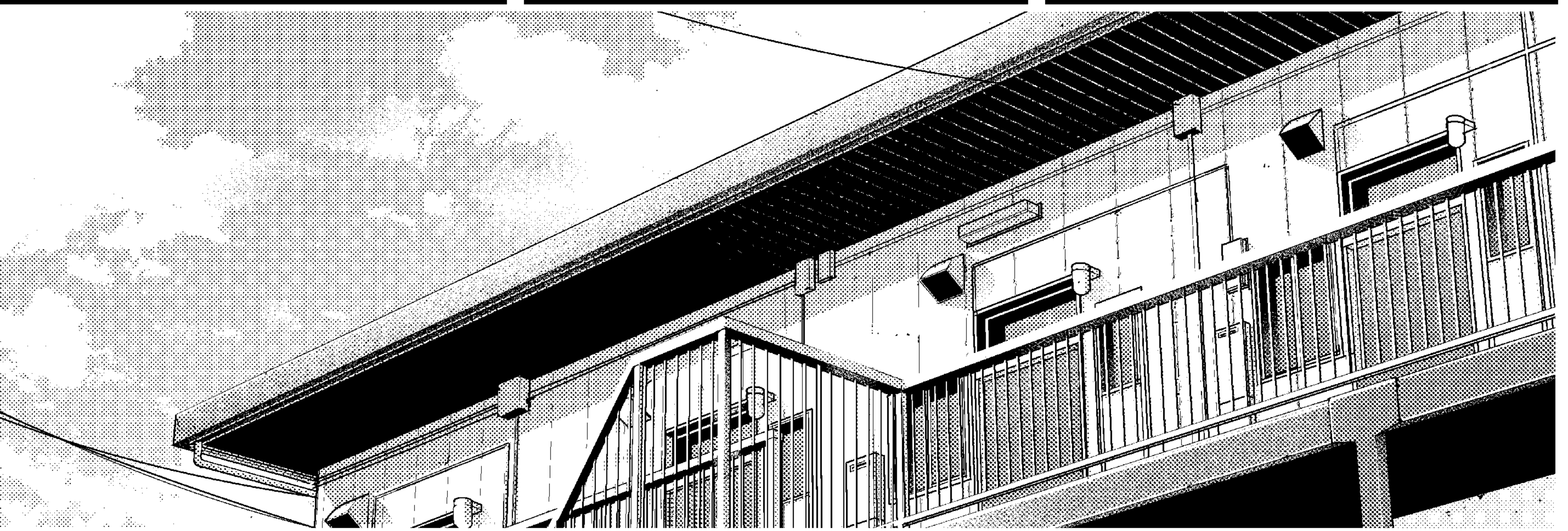
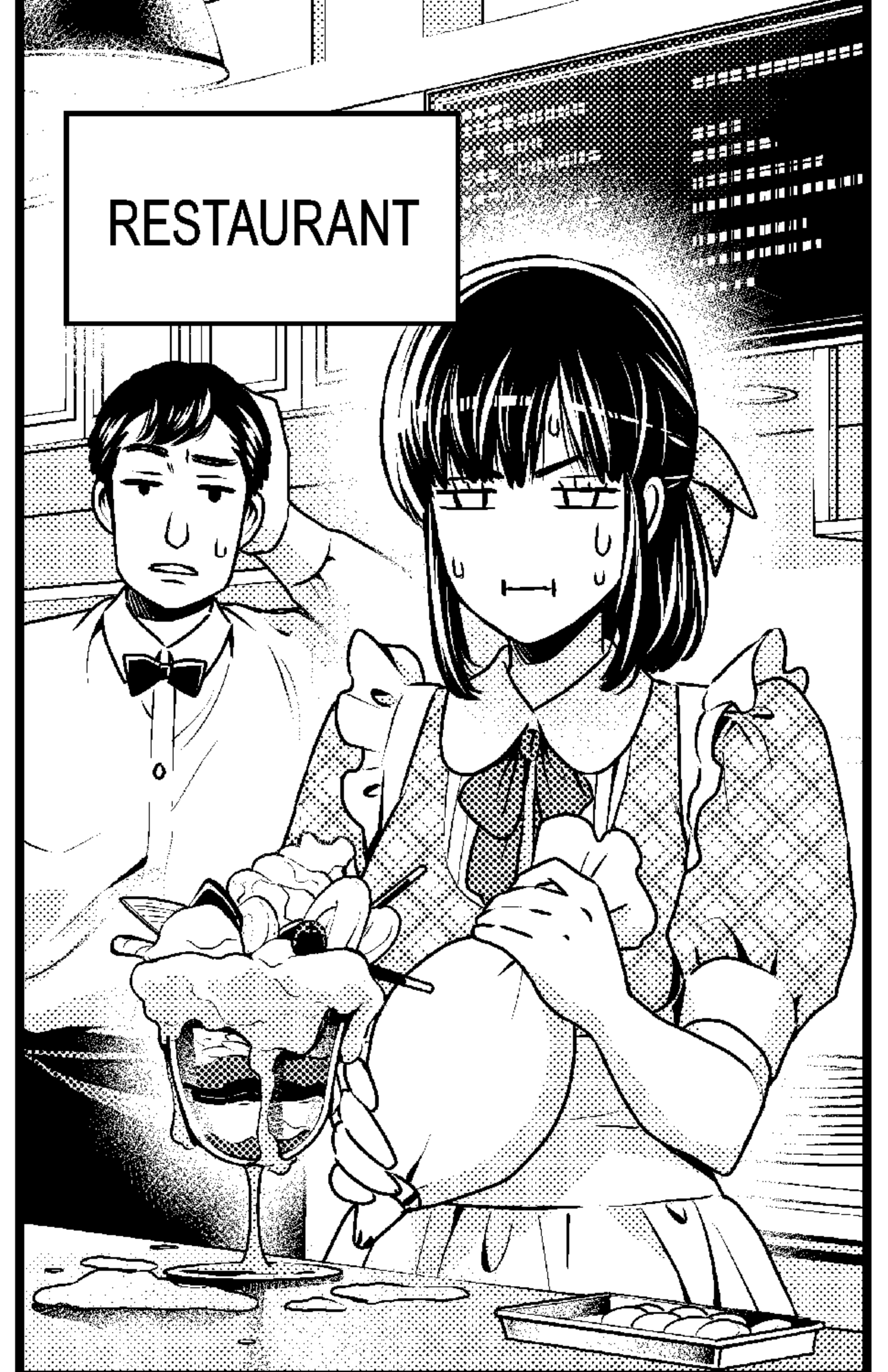
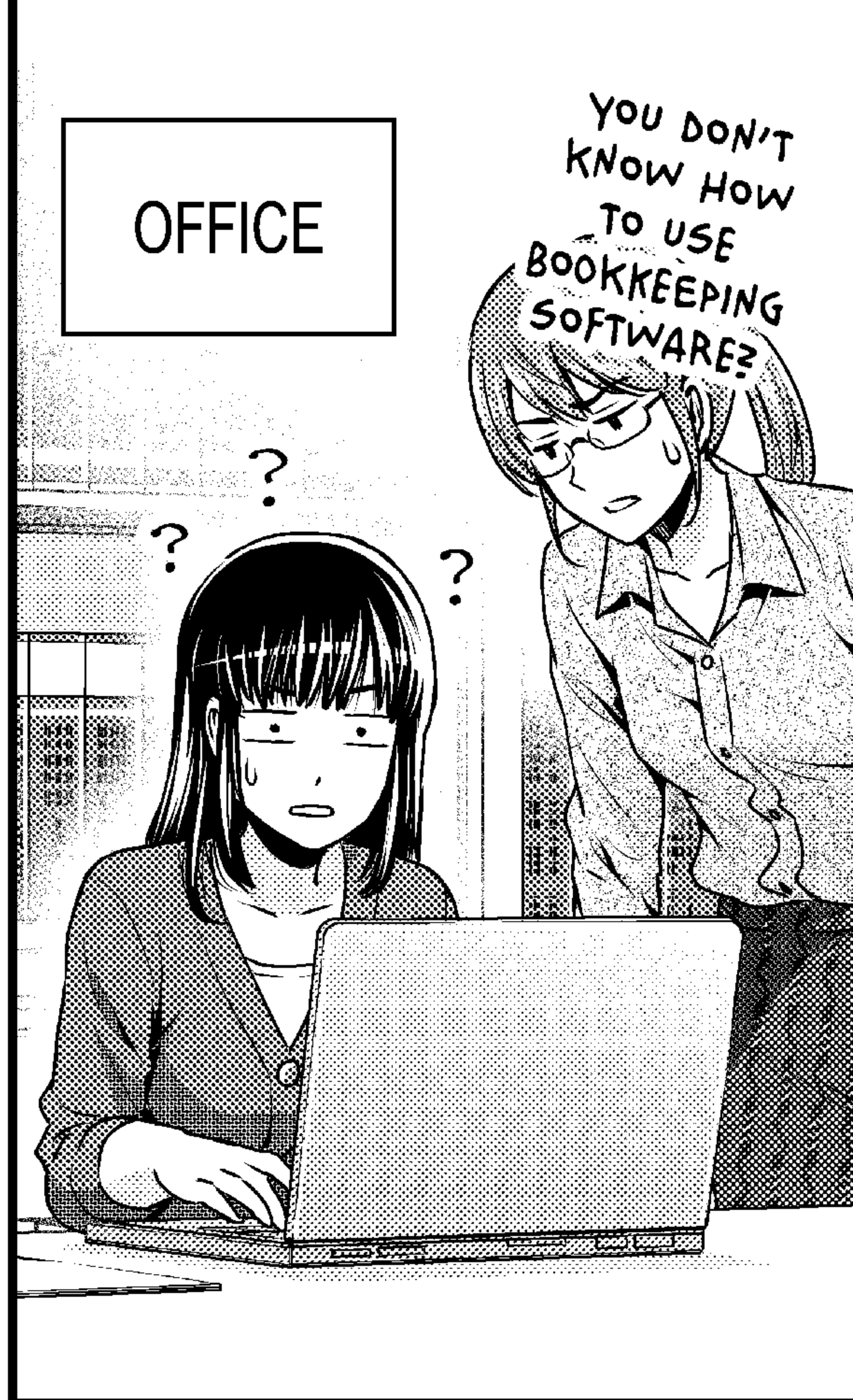
RAISING FUNDS DEFINITELY WON'T BE EASY.

MONEY, HUH?

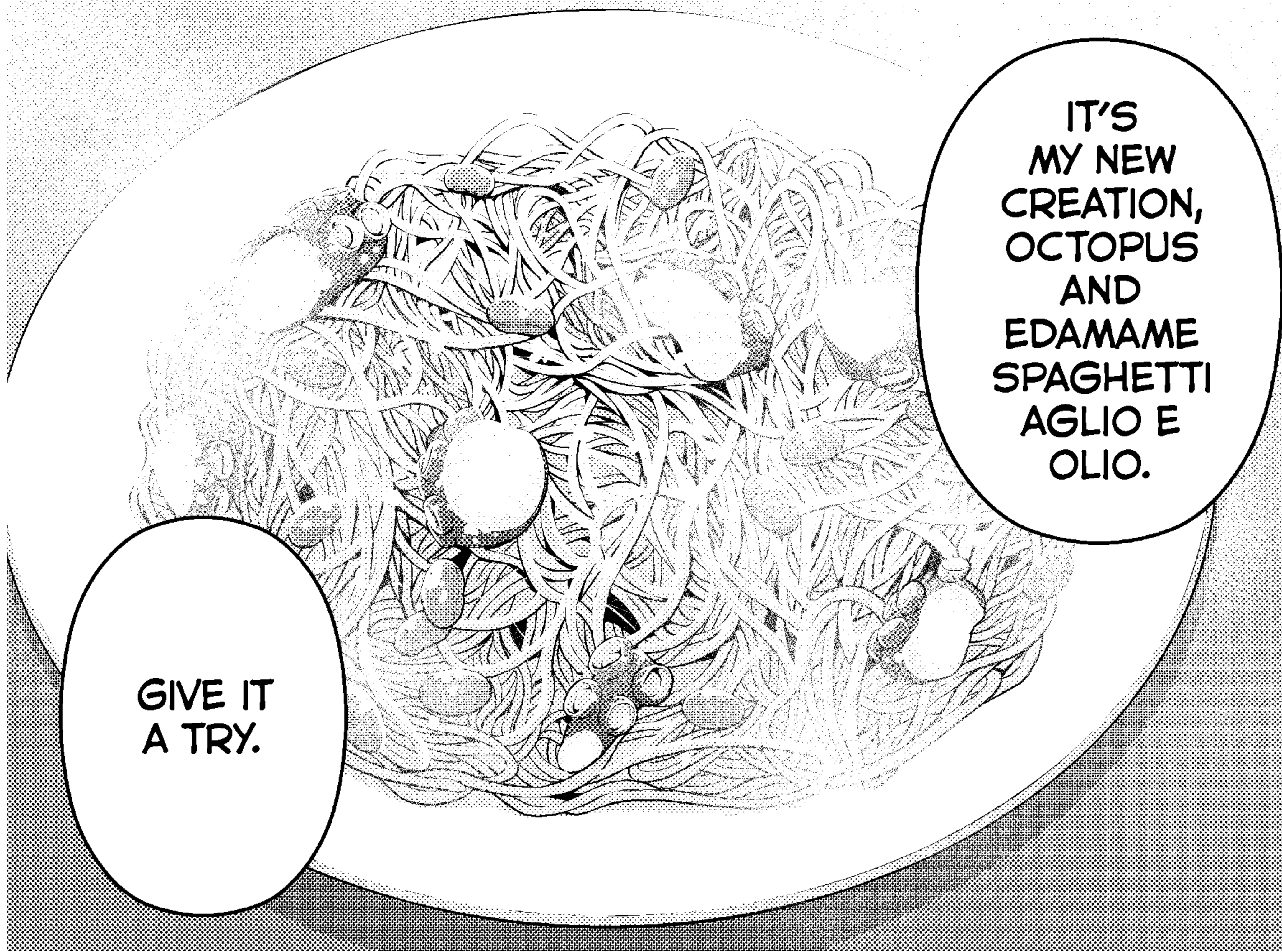












IT'S  
MY NEW  
CREATION,  
OCTOPUS  
AND  
EDAMAME  
SPAGHETTI  
AGLIO E  
OLIO.

GIVE IT  
A TRY.



HERE YA  
GO!



YEAH.

WE'RE  
DECIDING  
ON NEW  
DISHES  
AT THE  
RESTAU-  
RANT.

CON-  
TEST  
?



REALLY  
?!

I'LL  
SUBMIT  
IT FOR  
THE NEXT  
CONTEST,  
THEN!

MMM!

IT'S  
GREAT!



WOW  
...

MINE  
MIGHT BE  
LACKING  
ORIGINALITY,  
THOUGH.

MAYBE  
I'LL TRY  
ADDING  
WASABI  
...



THE STAFF  
ARE ASKED  
TO MAKE  
NEW DISHES  
FOR THE  
MENU EVERY  
SEASON.

WHATEVER  
PASSES  
GETS  
LISTED AS  
A SPECIAL  
FOR THE  
NEXT  
SEASON.

THE PREP  
COOKS  
HAVE BEEN  
TWEAKING  
THEIR DISH-  
ES, HOPING  
TO GET ONE  
ON THE  
MENU.





O-OH,  
YEAH. WHAT  
HAPPENED  
AFTER  
THAT?

I-IT'S  
NO BIG  
DEAL...

YOU SAID  
YOUR  
NEIGHBOR  
BROKE  
INTO YOUR  
ROOM?



I THINK  
IT'S AWE-  
SOME.

IT'S GREAT  
THAT YOU'VE  
ALREADY  
FOUND A GOAL  
TO WORK  
TOWARDS.



I REALIZED  
HE'D  
FINISHED  
BUILDING  
ALL OF MY  
FURNITURE  
...

AND  
BROKE  
DOWN AND  
STACKED  
ALL THE  
BOXES.

IT'S  
JUST,

WHEN I  
LOOKED  
AFTER  
THE  
ROOM,



HE WENT  
BACK TO  
HIS ROOM  
AFTER  
WE ATE  
TOGETHER  
FOR A  
WHILE.

OHH!

RIGHT,  
RIGHT. THAT  
SCARED THE  
CRAP OUT OF  
ME. I WALKED  
IN TO FIND  
HIM MAKING  
HOT POT.



WELL,

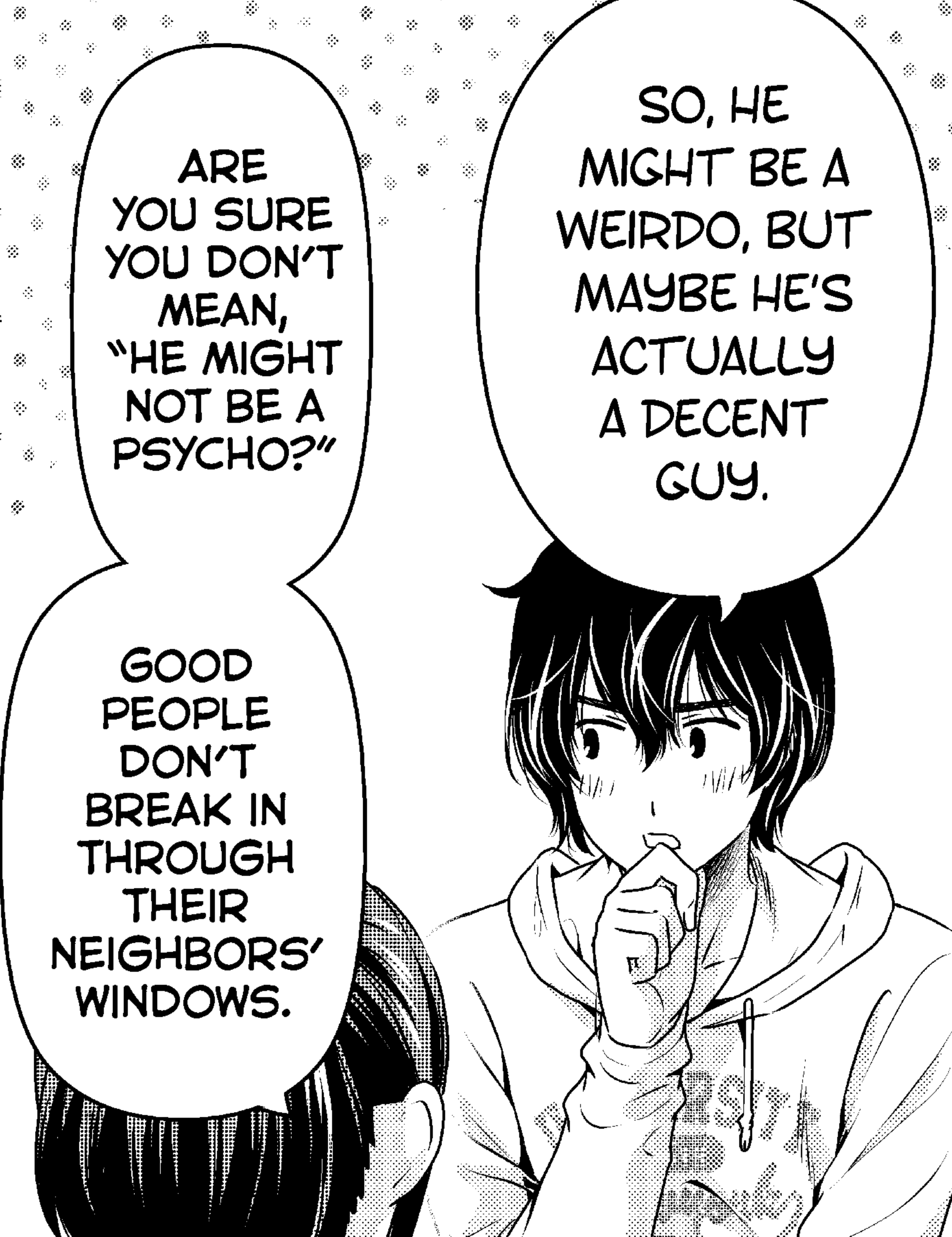
I'M GLAD  
NOTHING  
BAD HAP-  
PENED.



HEY,

RUI.

...

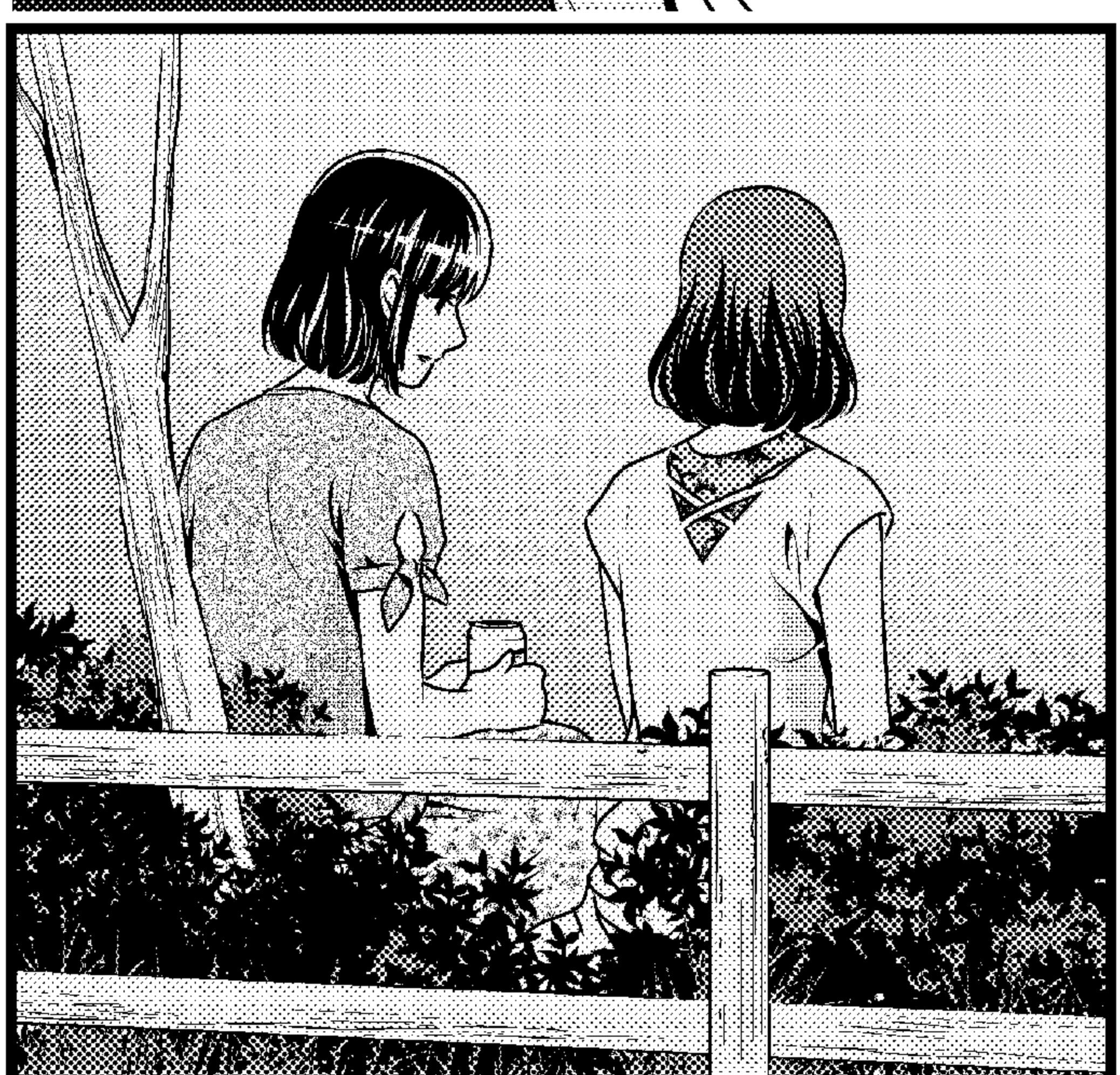


ARE  
YOU SURE  
YOU DON'T  
MEAN,  
"HE MIGHT  
NOT BE A  
PSYCHO?"

SO, HE  
MIGHT BE A  
WEIRDO, BUT  
MAYBE HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
A DECENT  
GUY.

GOOD  
PEOPLE  
DON'T  
BREAK IN  
THROUGH  
THEIR  
NEIGHBORS'  
WINDOWS.









ABOUT  
THE CLUB  
...

OH,  
YEAH.



ALL  
RIGHT.

I  
SEE.



BUT YOU  
TOLD ME  
TO TRUST  
YOU, SO  
IT'S FINE  
...



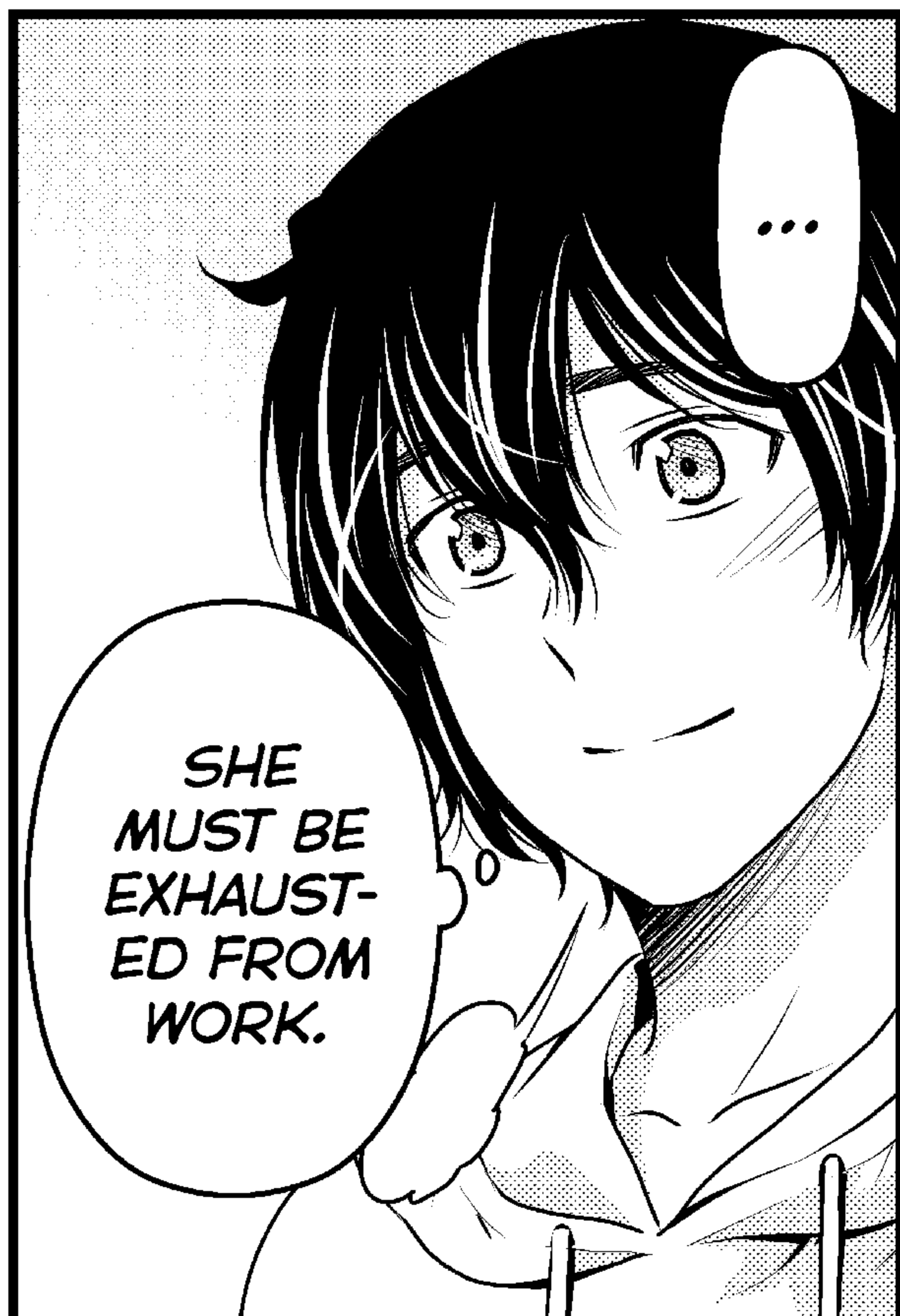
MM  
...

HNN  
...

C'MON,  
I'LL  
CARRY  
YOU.

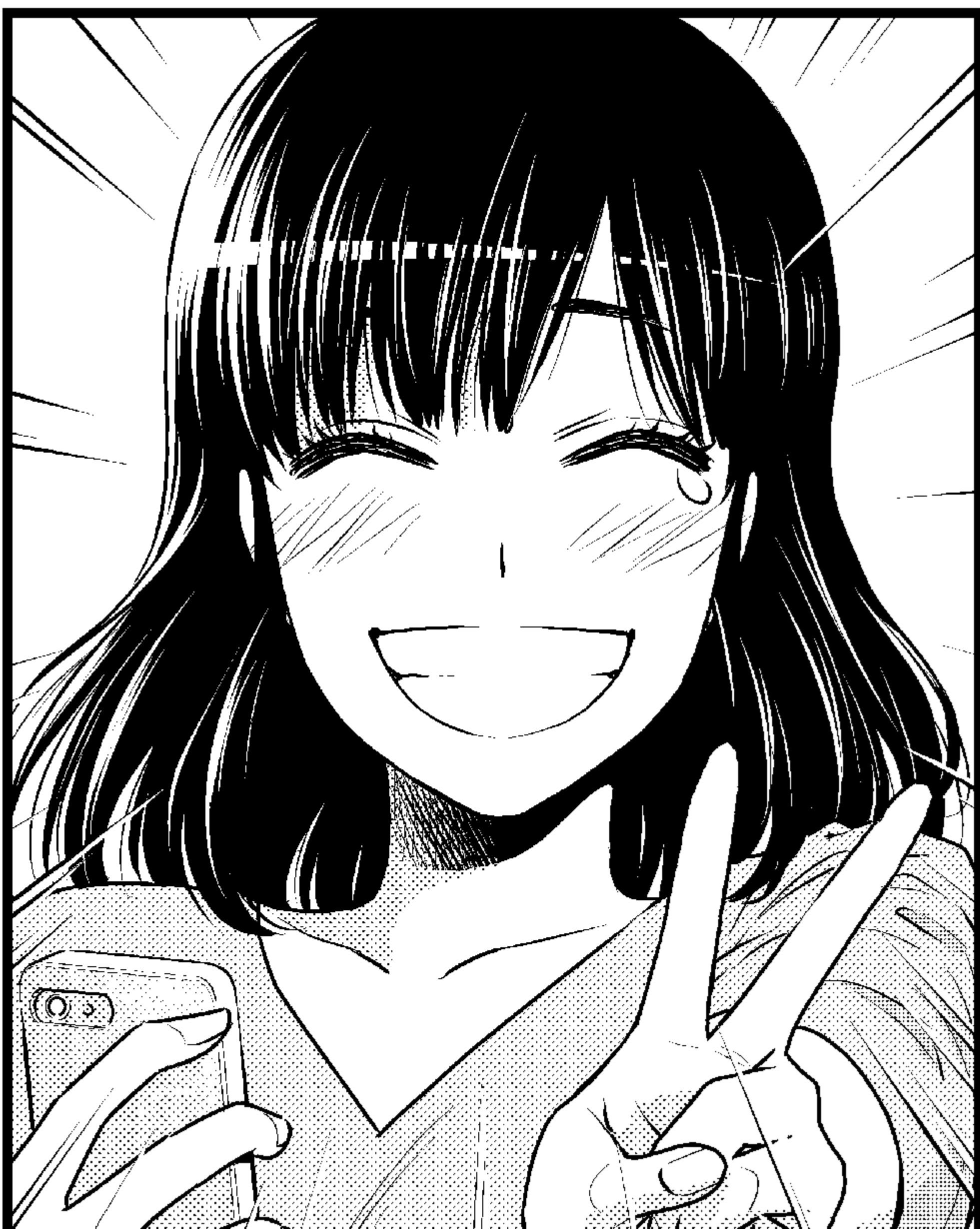
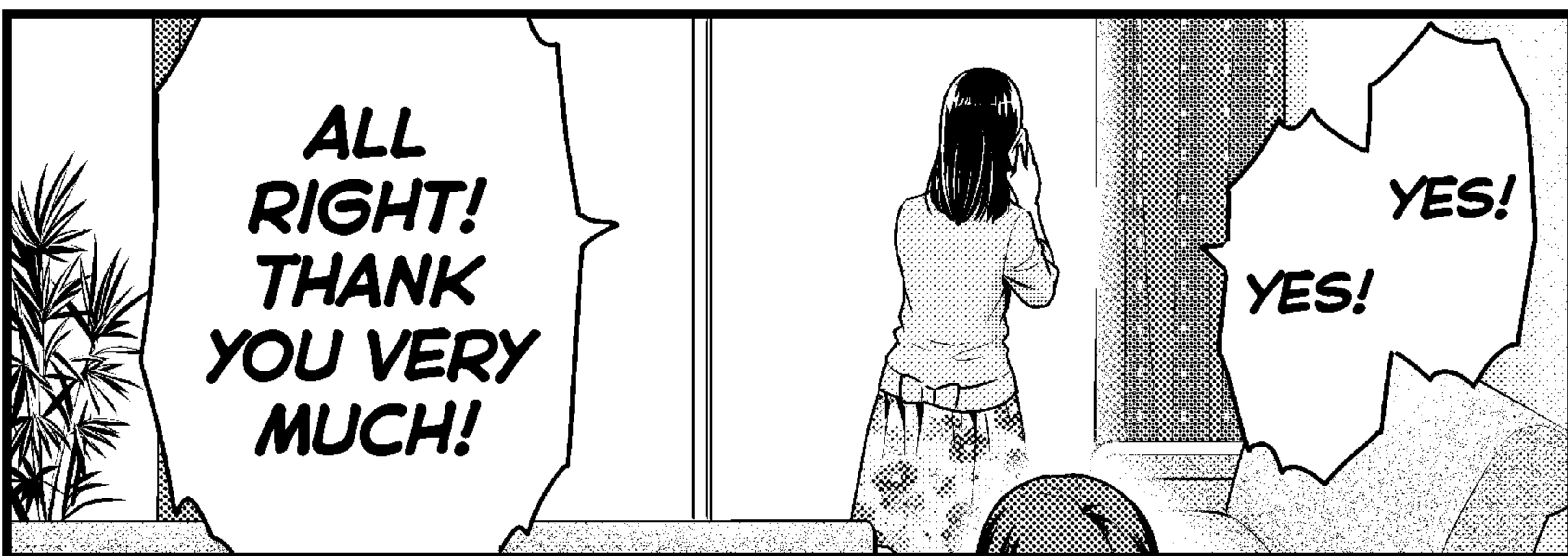
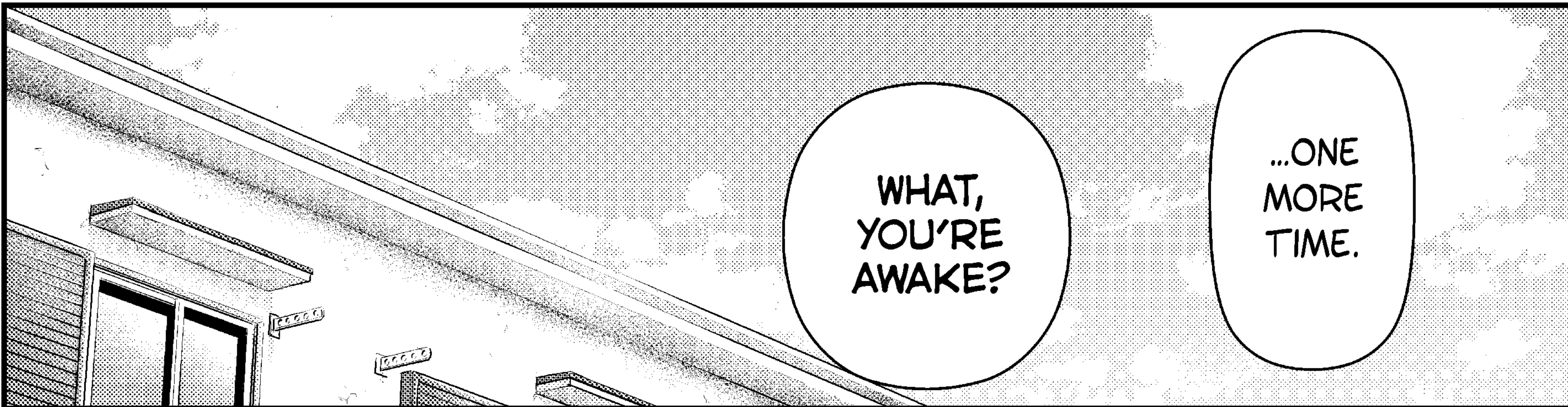
RUI.

LAY  
DOWN  
ON THE  
BED.



SHE  
MUST BE  
EXHAUST-  
ED FROM  
WORK.



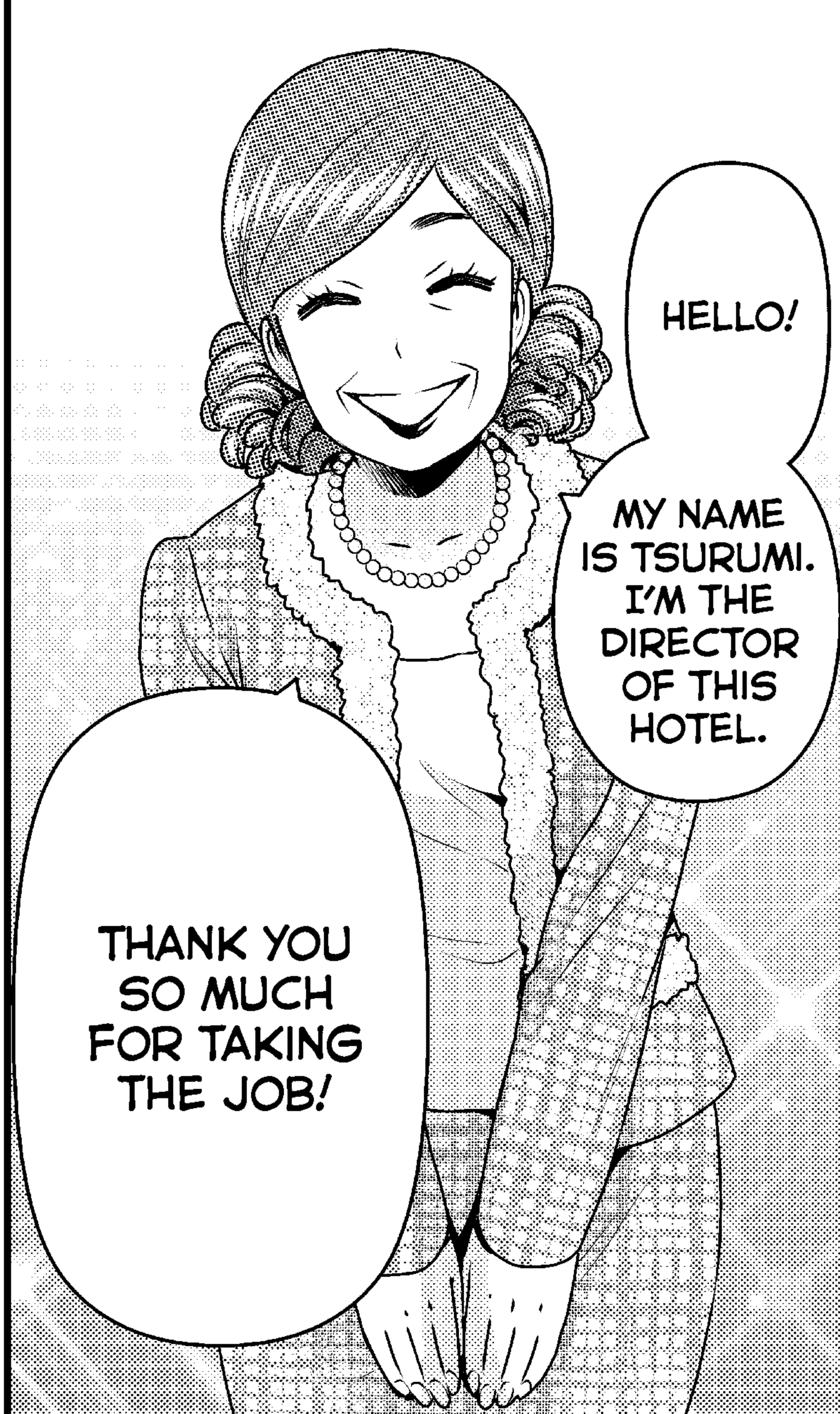






THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH  
FOR THE  
OFFER!

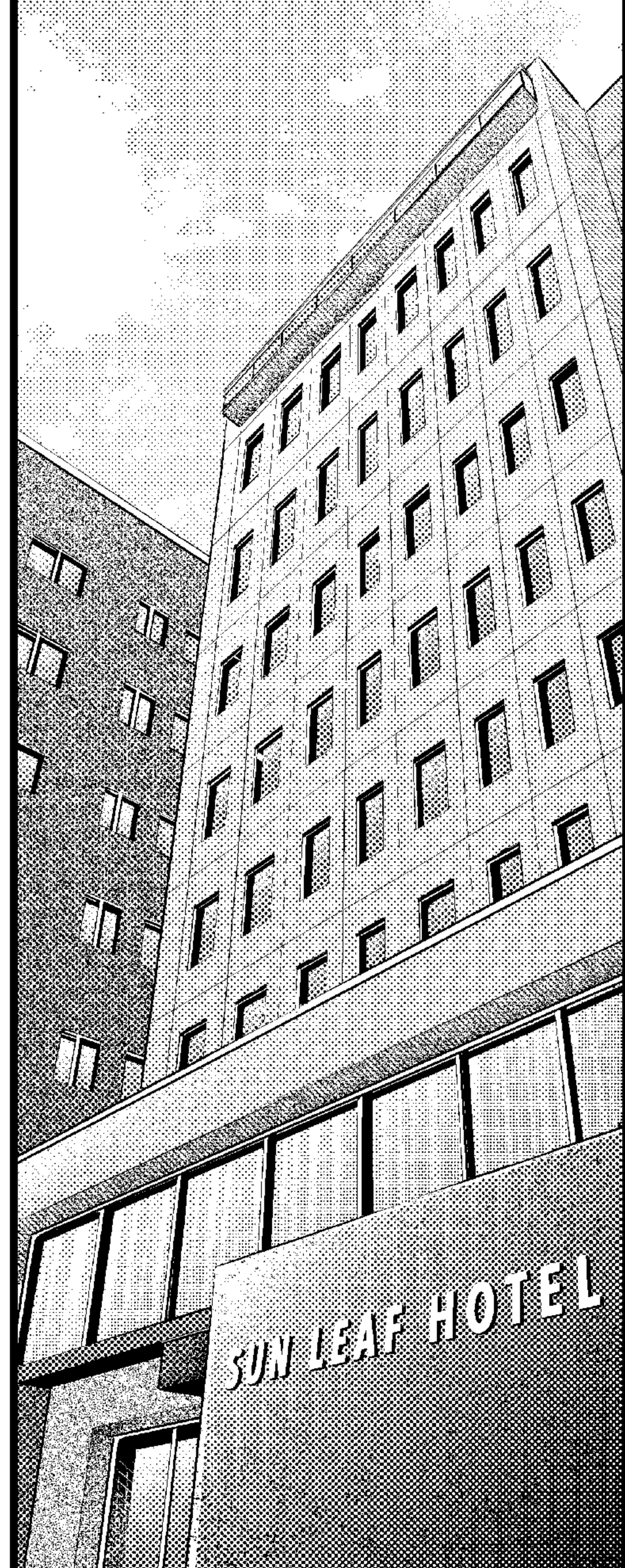
IT'S MY  
PLEA-  
SURE!



HELLO!

MY NAME  
IS TSURUMI.  
I'M THE  
DIRECTOR  
OF THIS  
HOTEL.

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH  
FOR TAKING  
THE JOB!



SUN LEAF HOTEL



I'D LIKE  
TO GET YOU  
STARTING  
ON TRAINING  
THIS WEEK.  
DOES THAT  
WORK FOR  
YOU?

I'M THINKING  
OF PUTTING  
YOU ON FRONT  
DESK DUTY.



WE'VE BEEN  
GETTING A  
LOT MORE  
FOREIGN  
GUESTS  
IN RECENT  
YEARS.



YES!

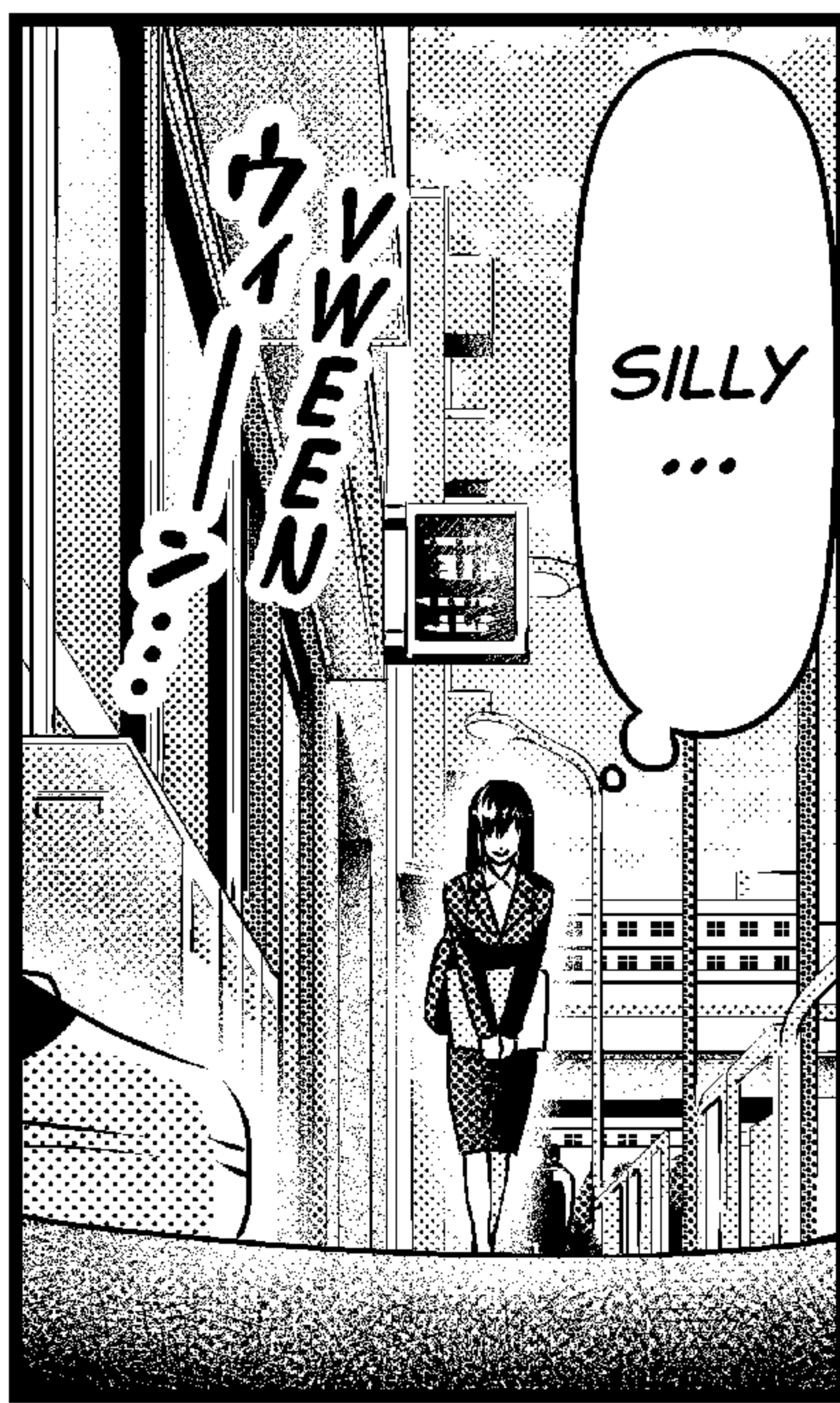
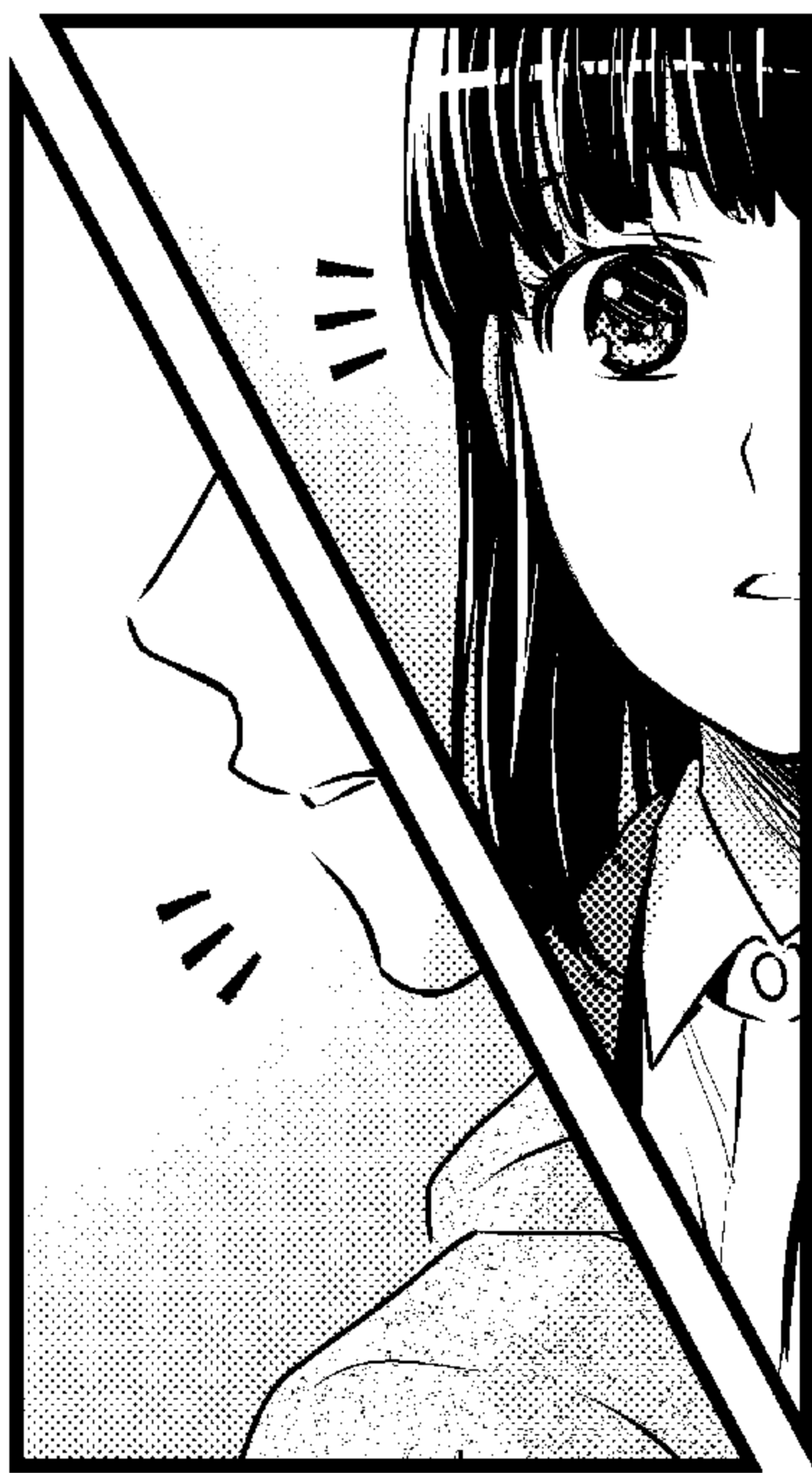
I LOOK  
FORWARD  
TO  
WORKING  
HERE!

IT WAS  
GETTING  
HARD TO  
KEEP UP  
WITH OUR  
CURRENT  
STAFF.





I PROBABLY  
WOULD'VE LET  
NATSUO-KUN  
KNOW FIRST IF  
WE WERE STILL  
GOING OUT...



SILLY ...



I FOUND  
A JOB  
WHERE  
I CAN  
USE MY  
ENGLISH  
SKILLS.

NOW  
I CAN  
REST  
EASY.

AHH...  
I'M SO  
HAPPY.

I CAN'T  
WAIT TO  
TELL  
EVERYONE  
THE GOOD  
NEWS.



HUH  
...?



MINI SPOT

FRENCH CHOCOLATE

Spicy Chicken



CHAPTER 141: AS AN OLDER SISTER?

MY  
COLLEGE IS  
NEARBY.

I COULD  
ASK YOU  
THE SAME  
THING.

NATSUO-  
KUN...

AND  
MEIJI'S  
NEARBY!

RIGHT,  
RIGHT!

OH...!  
THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
MEIJI!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
HERE?





IT FELT  
LIKE MY  
WISH  
CAME  
TRUE.

I WAS  
JUST  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
HOW I  
WANTED  
TO SEE  
YOU.



I MEAN,

JUST  
NOW,  
I...

THAT  
REALLY  
SURPRISED  
ME.



WHAT A  
COINCIDENCE,  
HUH?

I...I  
DIDN'T  
THINK I'D  
RUN INTO  
HERE.

THERE'S  
NO WAY...

...I CAN  
SAY THAT.



CON-  
GRATS!

WOW!

AND  
I'LL GET  
TO USE  
ENGLISH  
ON THE  
JOB, TOO!

I'M SO  
GLAD I  
DIDN'T  
GIVE UP!



I  
FINALLY  
GOT A  
JOB  
OFFER!

YEAH!  
GET  
THIS!

GRAB



WHY  
ARE  
YOU  
HERE,  
HINA-  
NEE?

DID YOU  
HAVE AN  
INTERVIEW?





THEN  
THAT  
MEANS  
...

...I'LL  
BE  
WORKING  
...

...  
RIGHT  
NEAR  
WHERE  
HE  
LIVES?



WAIT,  
THERE?!

IT'S AT THE  
SUN LEAF  
HOTEL RIGHT  
OVER THERE!



WELL,  
YEAH.

DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
IT?

?

MY  
APARTMENT'S  
RIGHT  
AROUND THE  
CORNER.



...

I  
SEE.

I...

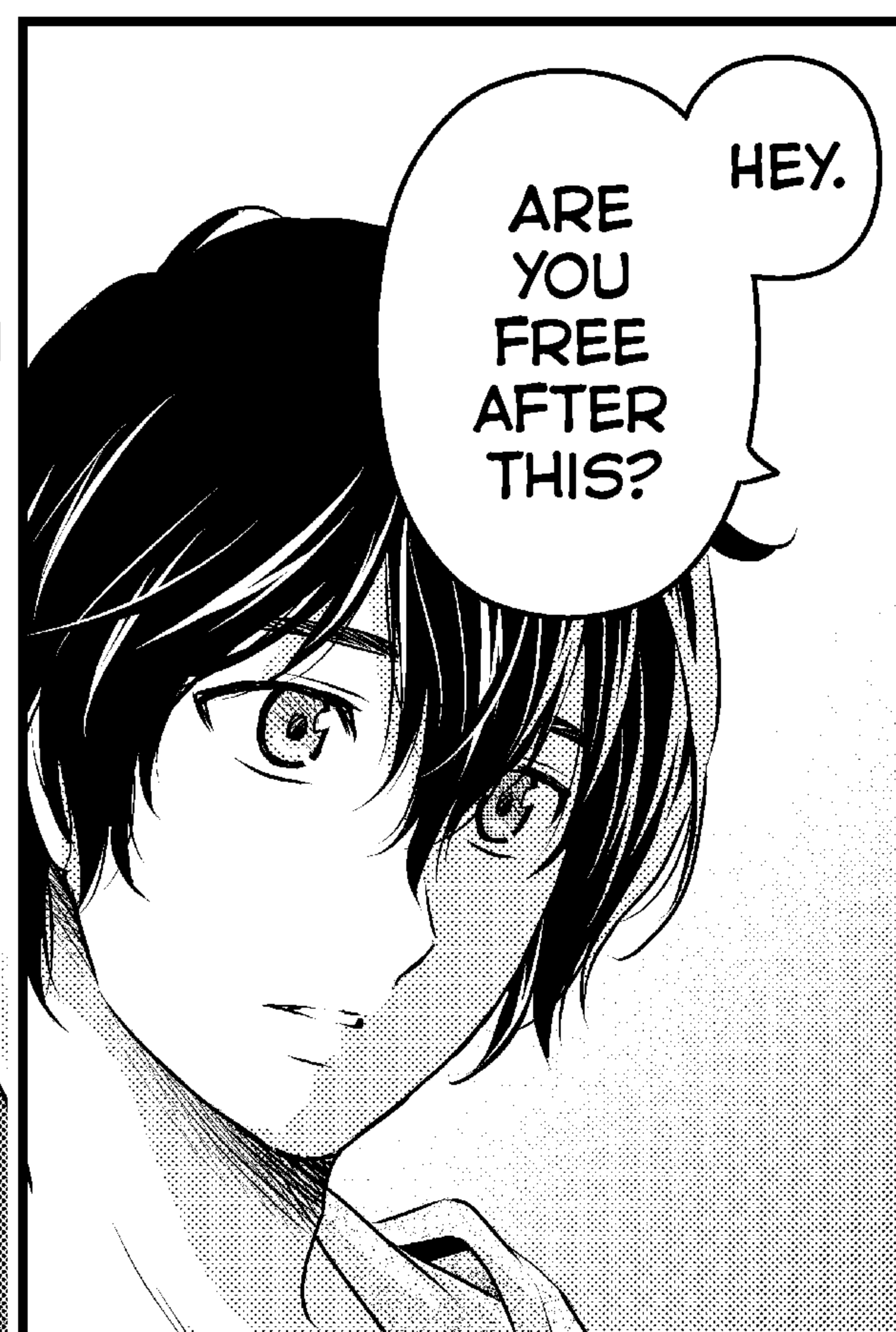
OH.



...SEE  
YOUR  
NEW  
PLACE.

IF  
THAT'S  
OKAY.

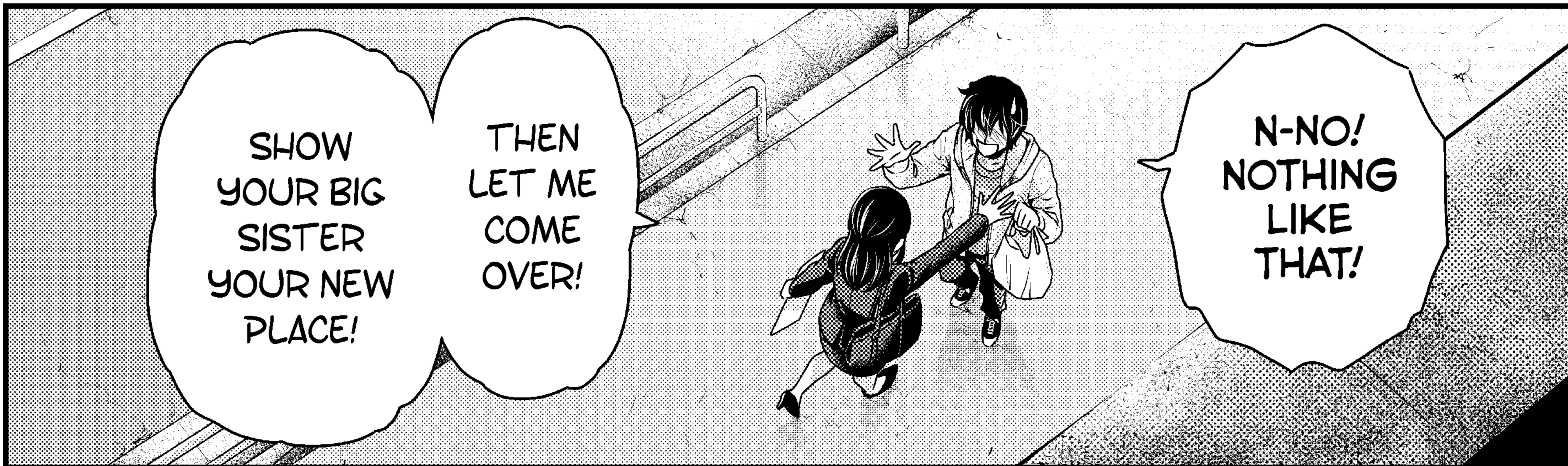
I KINDA  
WANNA...



ARE  
YOU  
FREE  
AFTER  
THIS?

HEY.









GOTCHA!



WHY DIDN'T YOU RENT ONE SOMEWHERE NEWER?

THE APARTMENT LOOKS PRETTY OLD, THOUGH.



BUT ALL THE NICE PLACES WERE TOO EXPENSIVE.

OH... I WANTED SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE,



OH, SURE!

THANKS.

IS OOLONG FINE?

H- HERE'S SOME TEA.



Y'KNOW,

IT'S FUNNY.

...



I WAS PARCHED FROM HOW NERVOUS I WAS!

GLAD EVERYTHING WORKED OUT.

I WENT IN TO SAY HI AND GET A RUNDOWN OF THE JOB TODAY.





DOESN'T  
SITTING  
LIKE THIS  
...

...REMINDE  
YOU OF  
WHEN WE  
WERE TO-  
GETHER?



JUST  
ME?

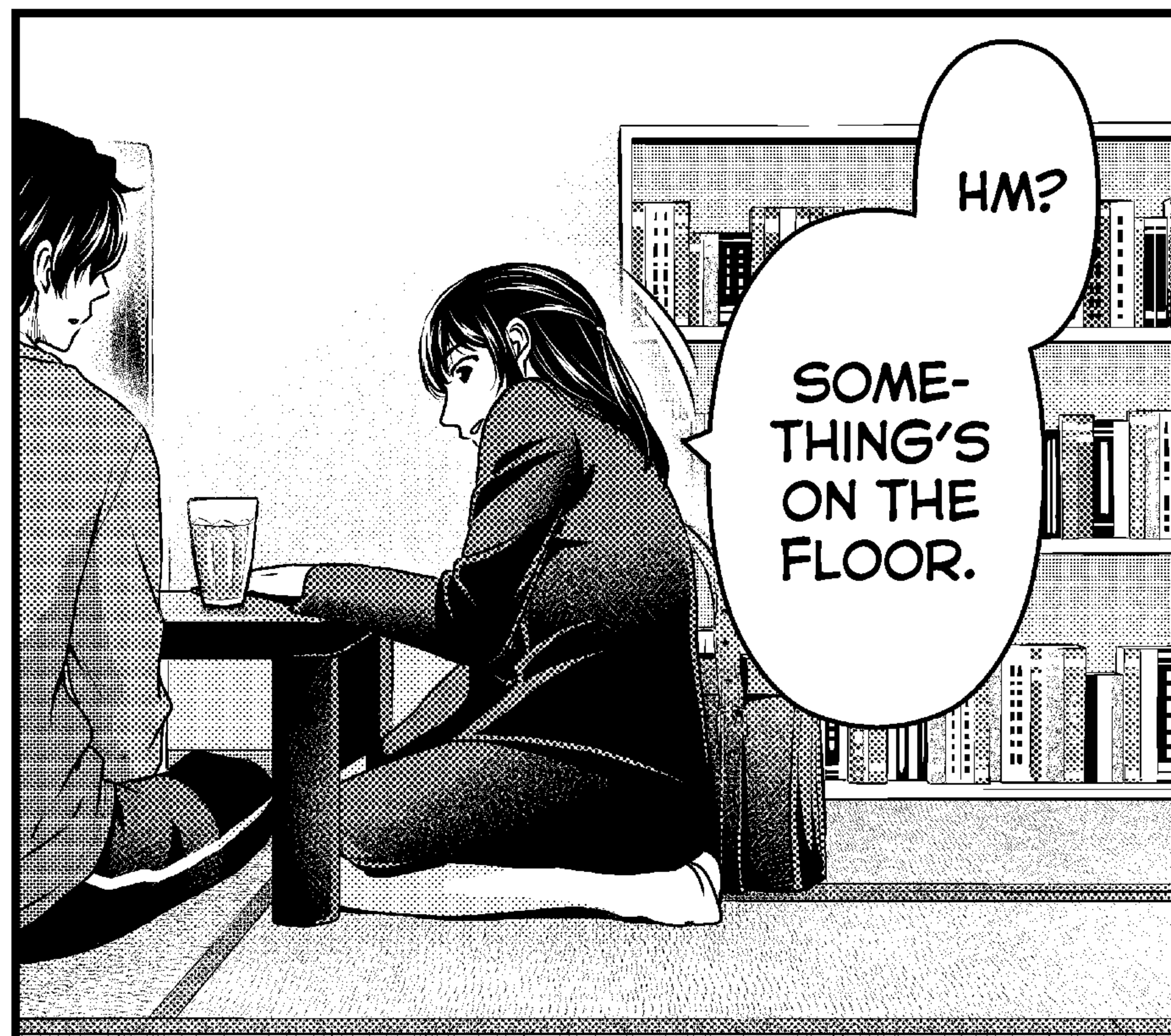
SORRY.  
THAT WAS  
WEIRD,  
HUH?

A  
HAIR-  
PIN?



HAVE  
YOU SAID  
HI TO  
YOUR NEIGH-  
BORS  
YET?

THESE  
DAYS-



HM?

SOME-  
THING'S  
ON THE  
FLOOR.





...IF WE  
DON'T  
TELL  
HER.

I THINK  
IT'S FINE  
...

UH,  
...  
UMM  
...



THAT'S  
RUI'S!

...!

ISN'T  
THIS A  
GIRL'S?



BE  
CAREFUL  
NOT TO  
LOSE IT  
AGAIN.

OH, I  
SEE.

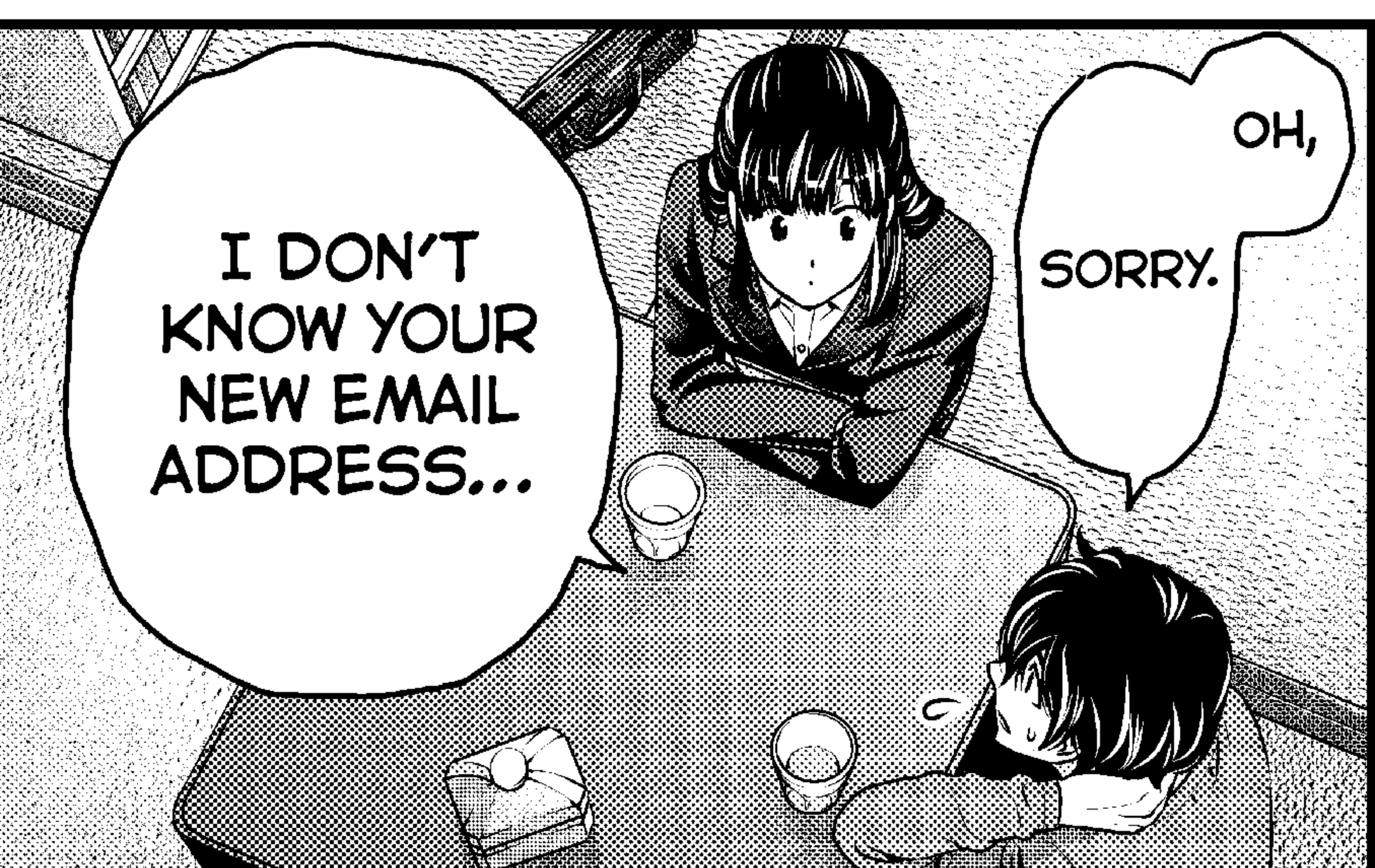


I TOTALLY  
FORGOT  
TO GIVE IT  
BACK TO  
HER!

SO,  
THAT'S  
WHERE  
IT WAS  
HIDING!

OH,  
THAT  
?!

ONE OF MY  
NEIGHBORS  
DROPPED IT  
WHEN SHE  
CAME OVER  
TO SAY HI!



I DON'T  
KNOW YOUR  
NEW EMAIL  
ADDRESS...

OH,  
SORRY.



SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.  
LET ME  
GIVE IT  
TO YOU  
NOW.

OH,  
RIGHT!  
I NEVER  
TOLD YOU,  
DID I?



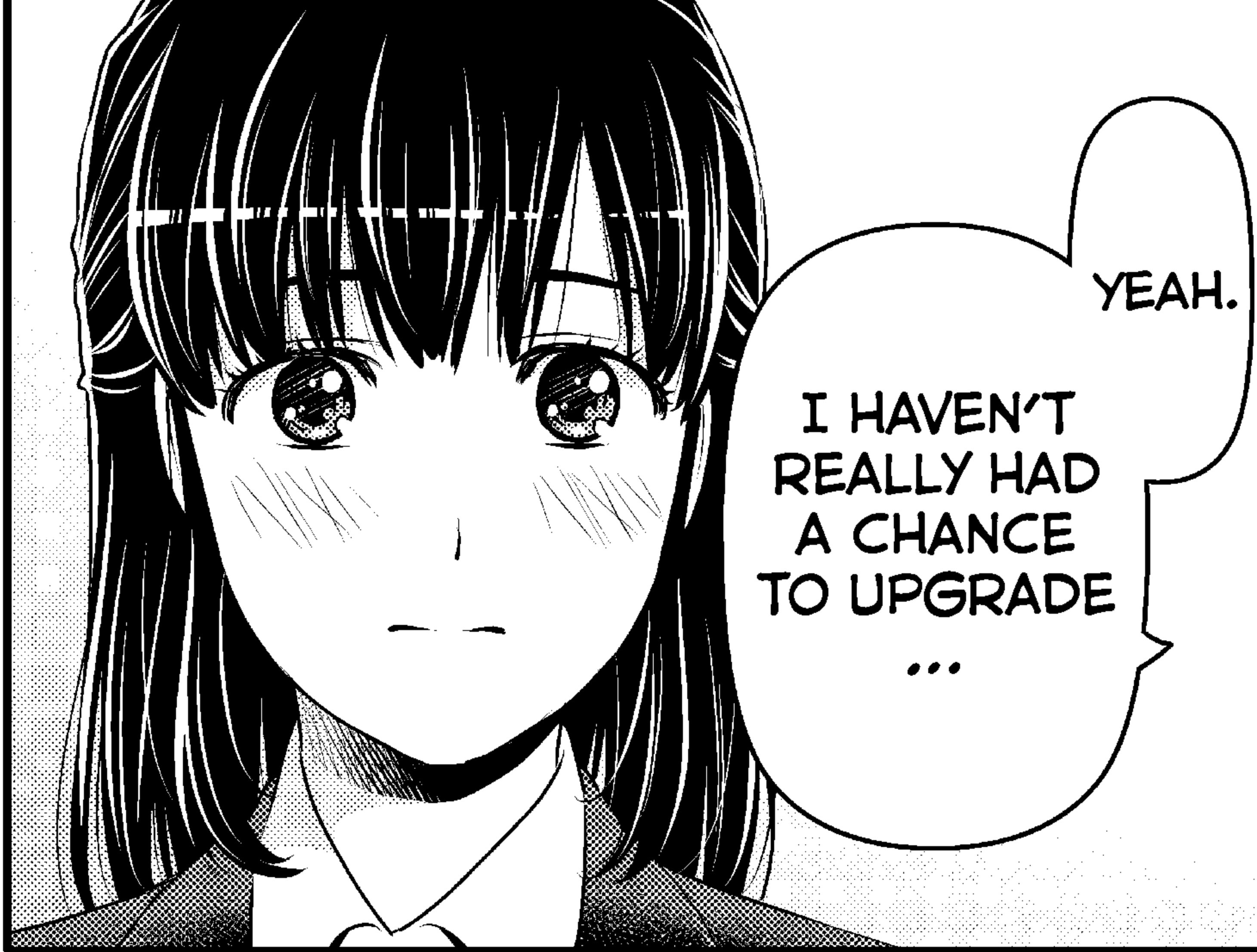
YOU  
WERE  
ALREADY  
GONE  
WHEN I  
GOT  
HOME.

BUT,  
YOU  
KNOW,

I WAS  
SURPRISED  
TO HEAR  
YOU'D  
MOVED  
OUT.

YOU  
COULD'VE  
TOLD ME!





I HAVEN'T  
REALLY HAD  
A CHANCE  
TO UPGRADE  
...

YEAH.



YOU'RE  
STILL  
USING  
THAT FLIP  
PHONE,  
NATSUO-  
KUN?

HUH  
?



CALL  
IT A  
GRAD-  
UATION  
GIFT.

WHY DON'T  
I BUY  
YOU ONE,  
THEN?



BUT  
SMART  
PHONES  
ARE  
EXPEN-  
SIVE!

HUH  
?!

THERE  
ARE  
PRETTY  
CHEAP  
PLANS  
THESE  
DAYS.

JUST  
LEAVE  
IT TO  
ME!



THEN  
LET'S GO  
GET YOU  
ONE!

WHEN LIFE  
GIVES YOU  
LEMONS!



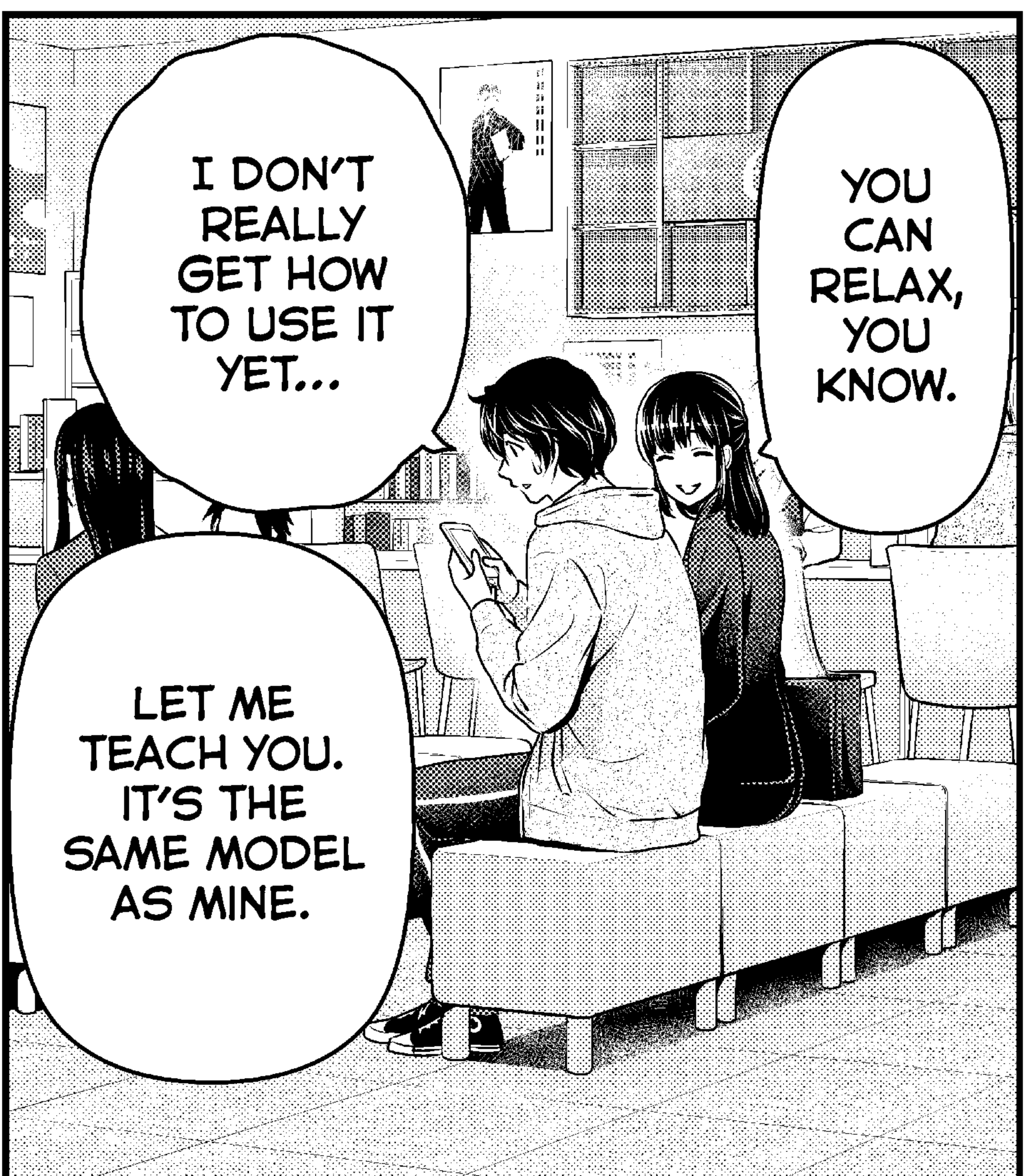
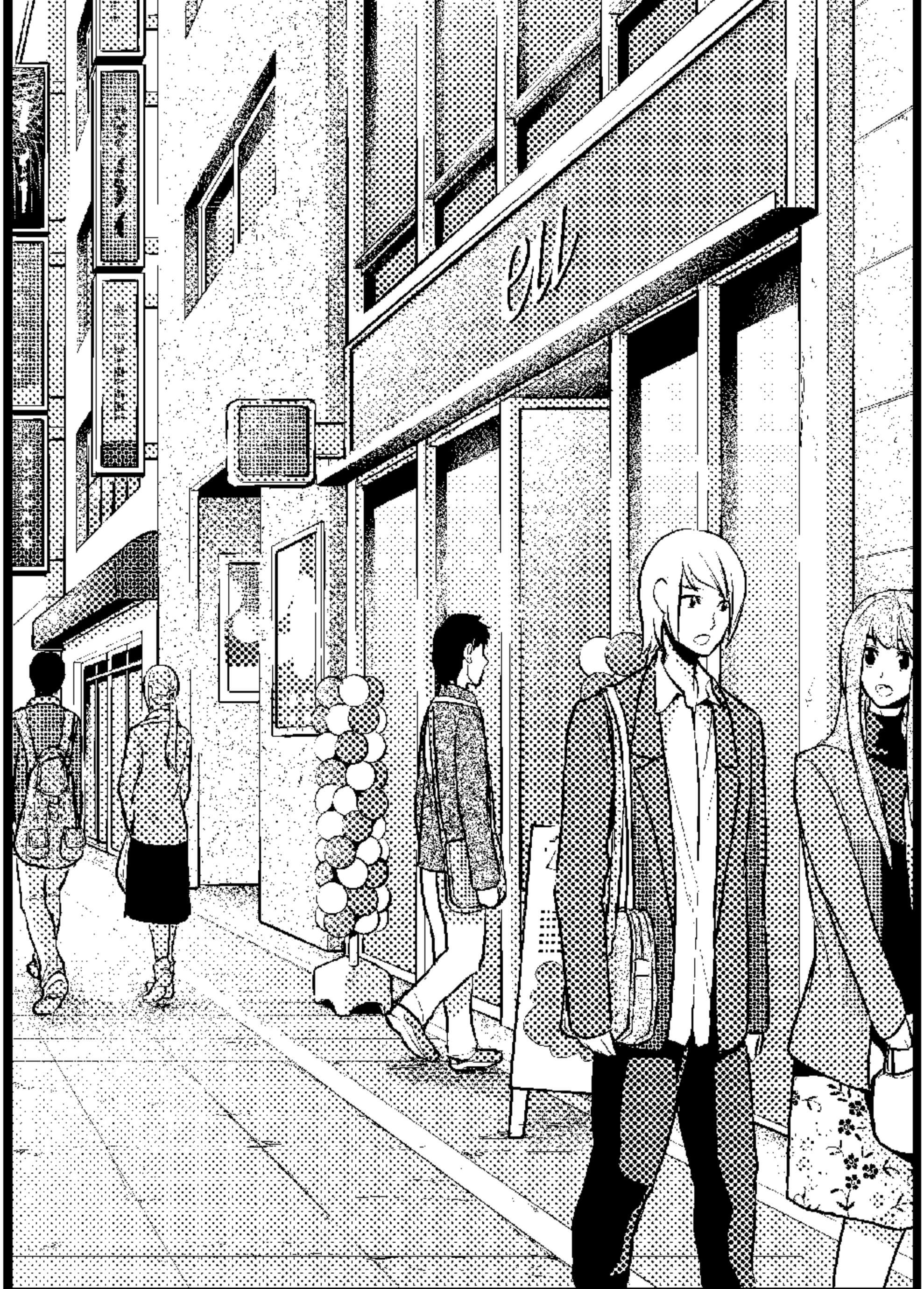
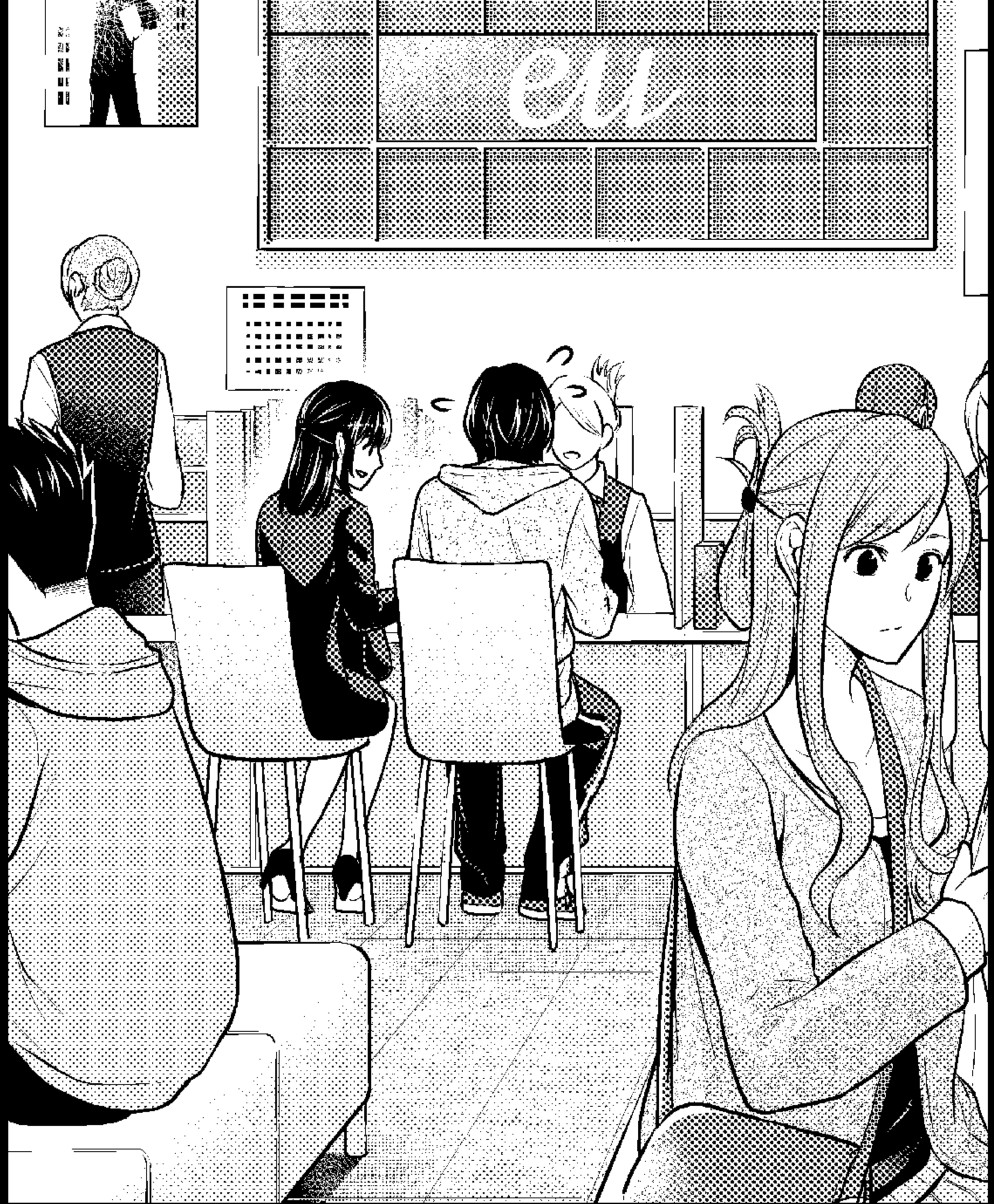
THAT'S  
FINE.  
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE  
TO...

HUH  
?

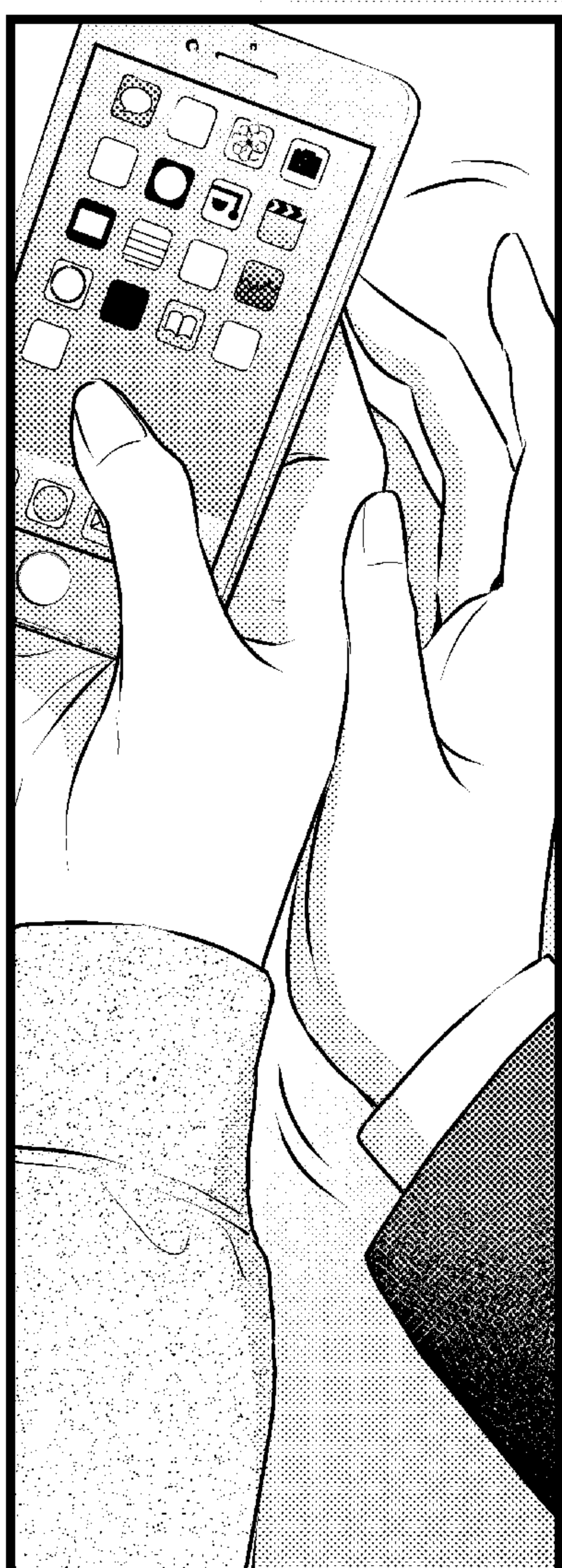
ARE YOU  
ONE OF  
THOSE  
PEOPLE  
WHO ONLY  
USES OLD  
PHONES?

NAH, NOT  
REALLY,  
BUT...

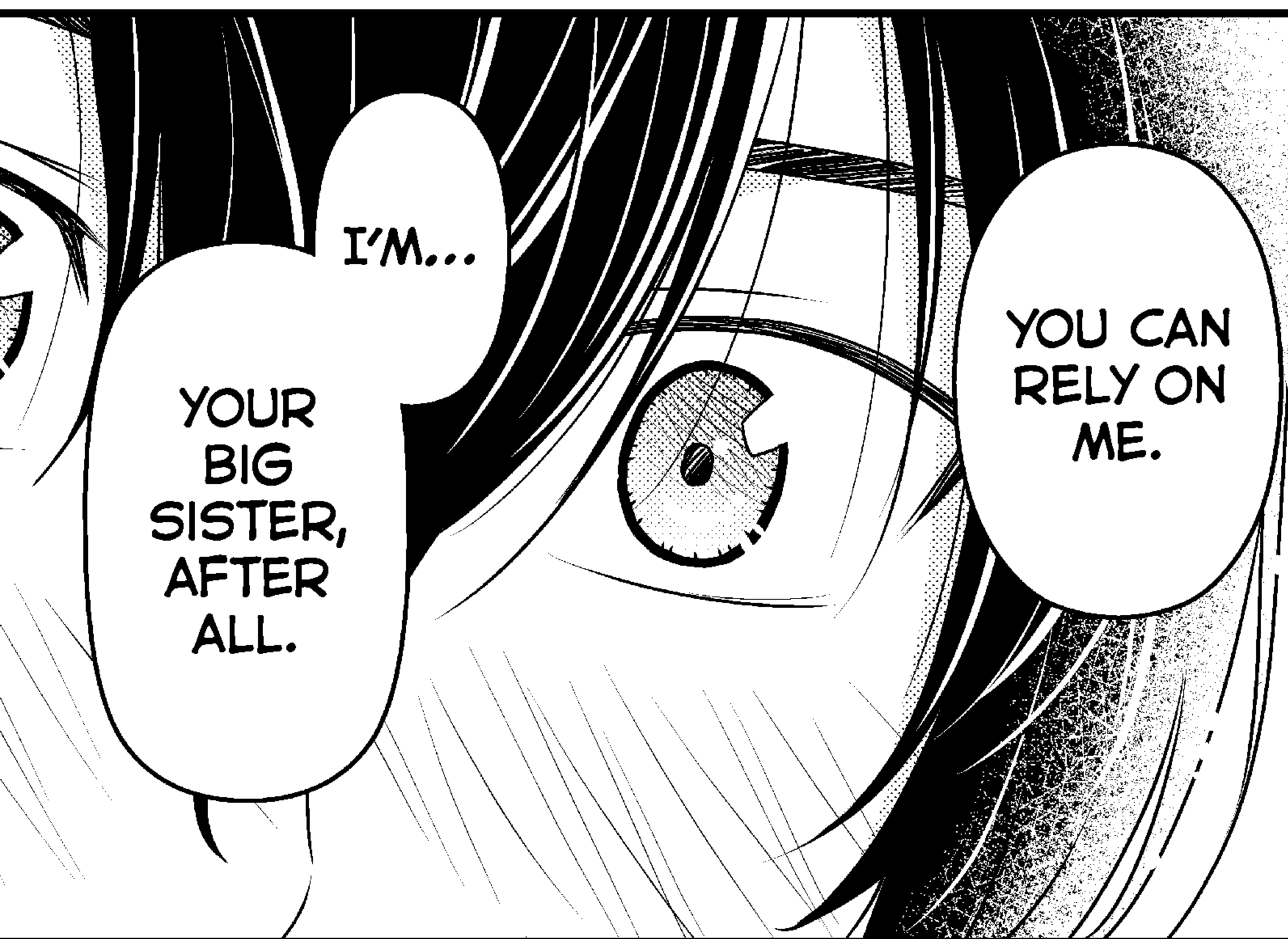
















NO PROB!  
IT'S ONLY  
HALF AN  
HOUR BY  
TRAIN.

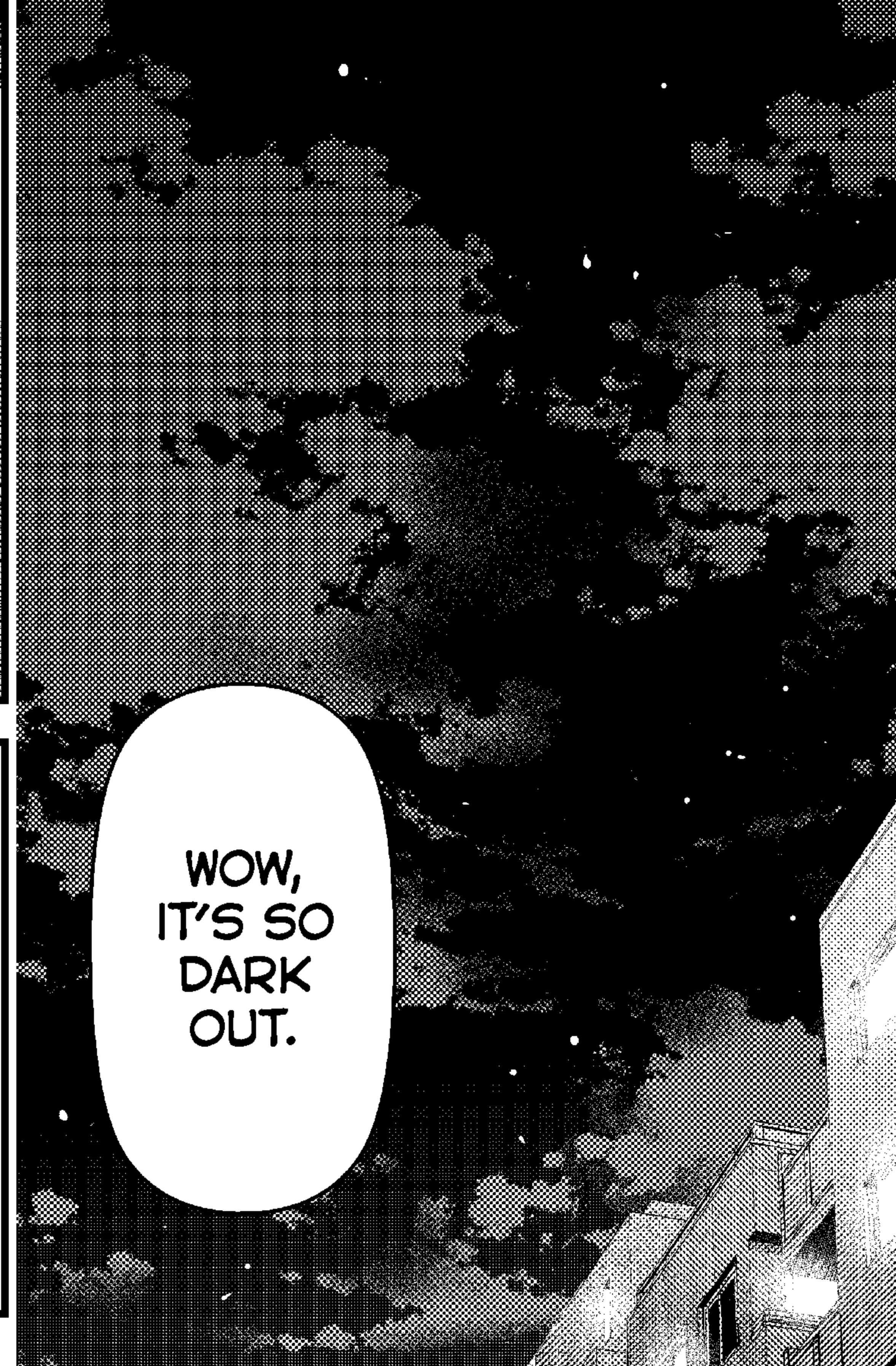
WILL YOU  
BE OKAY  
GETTING  
BACK?



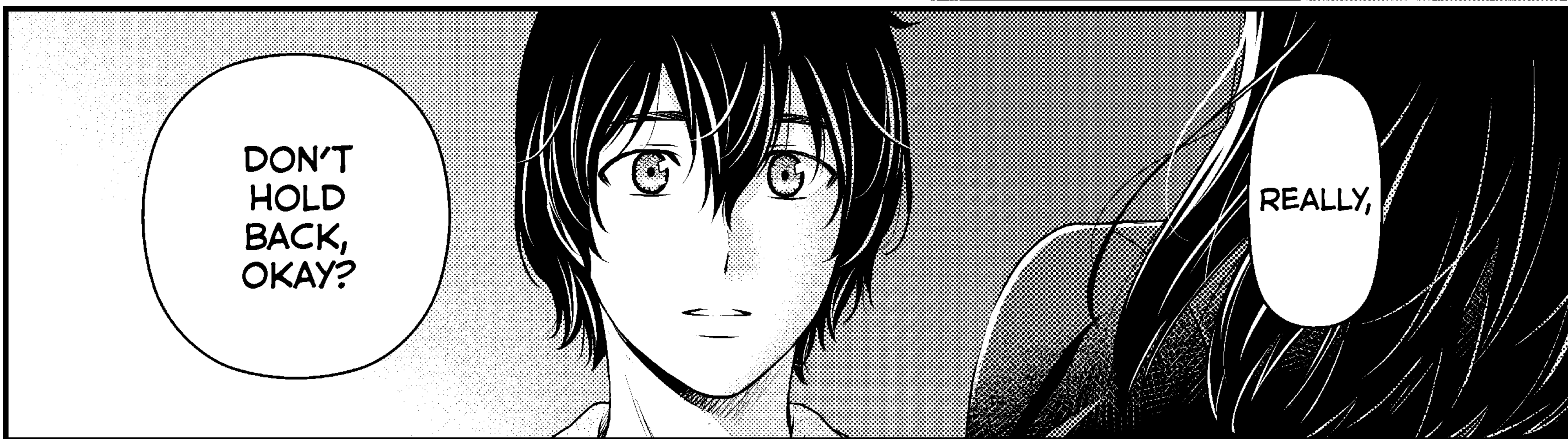
I-I'LL  
TRY.

IT'S WAY  
QUICKER  
ONCE YOU  
GET USED  
TO IT.

MAKE  
SURE YOU  
PRACTICE  
YOUR FLICK  
TYPING ON  
THE APPS I  
INSTALLED.



WOW,  
IT'S SO  
DARK  
OUT.



DON'T  
HOLD  
BACK,  
OKAY?

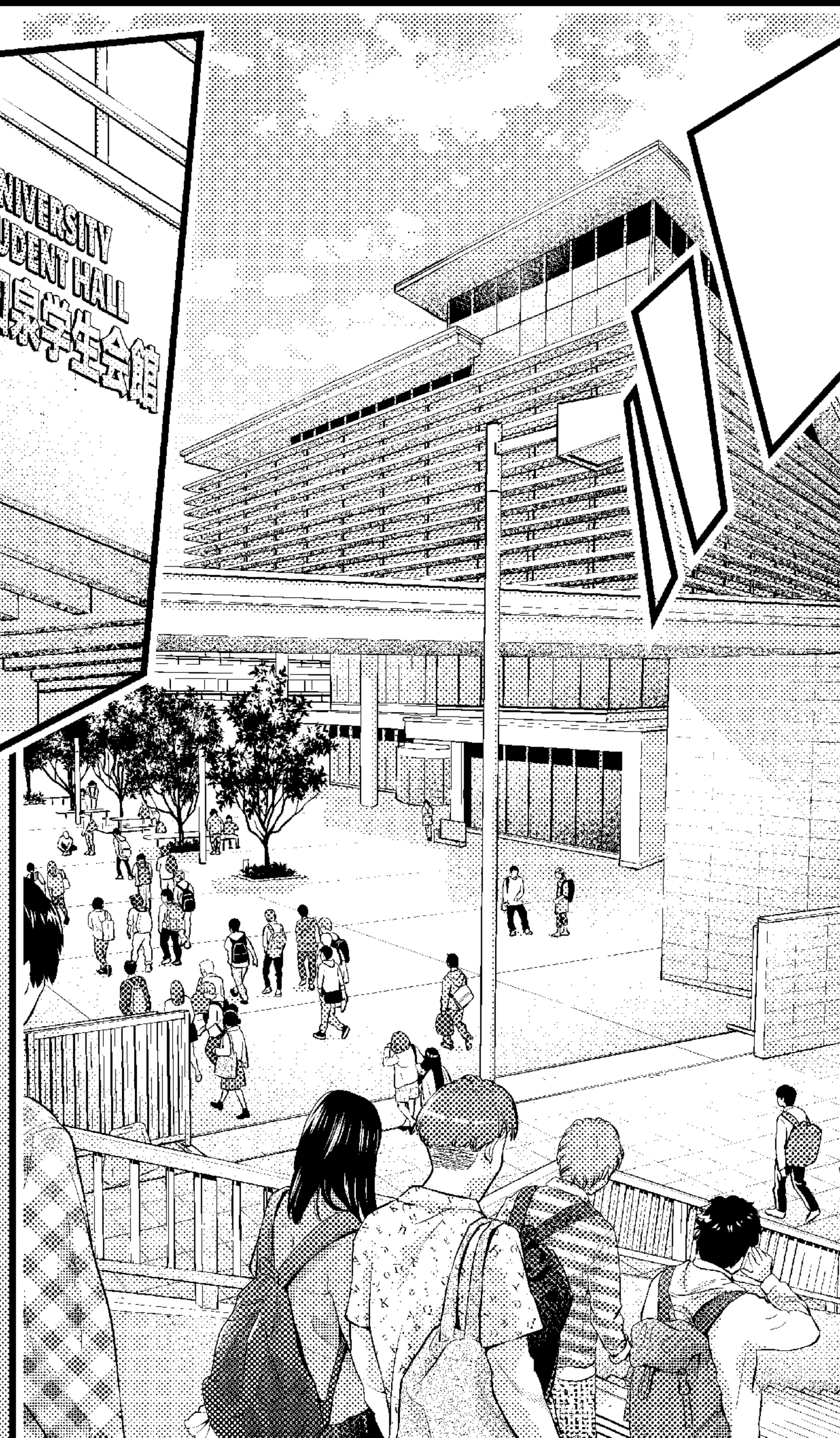
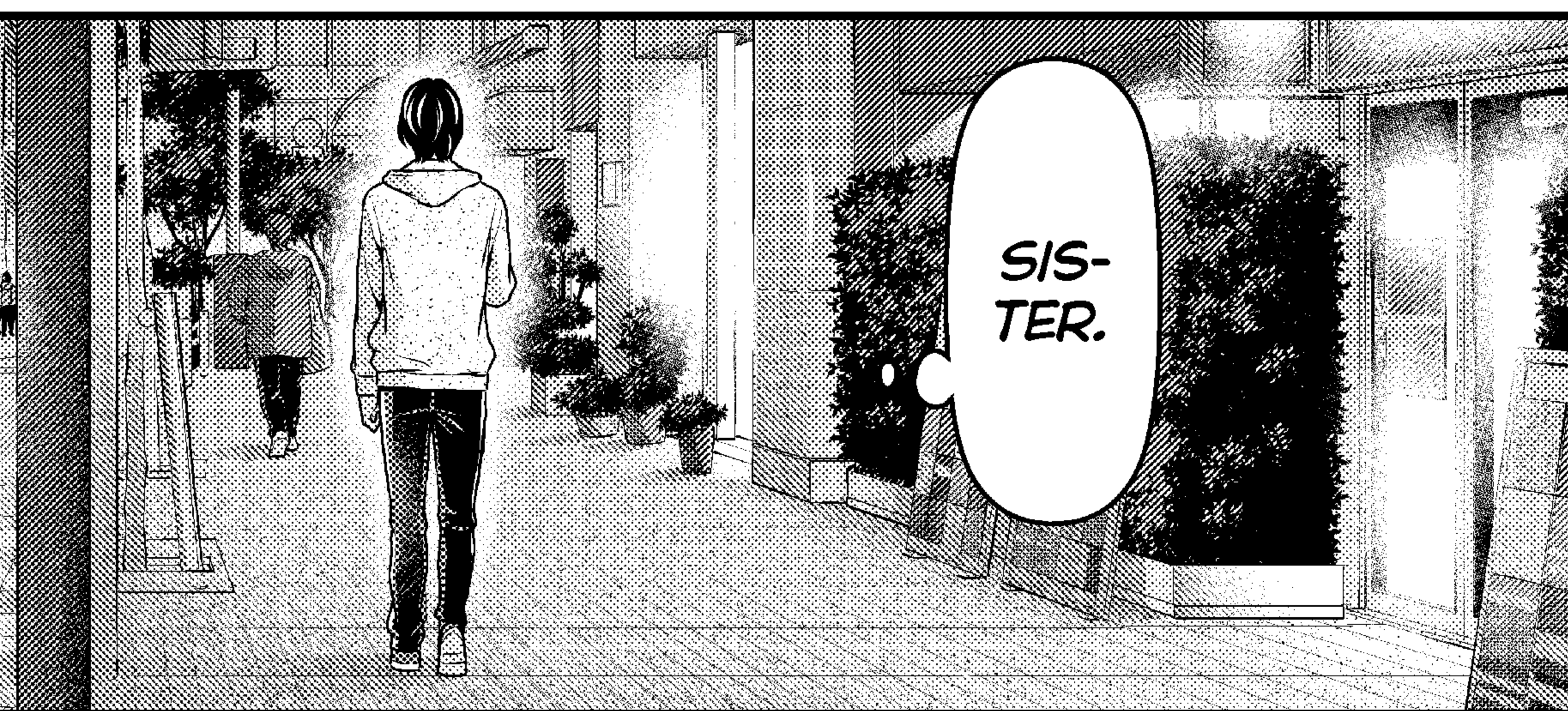
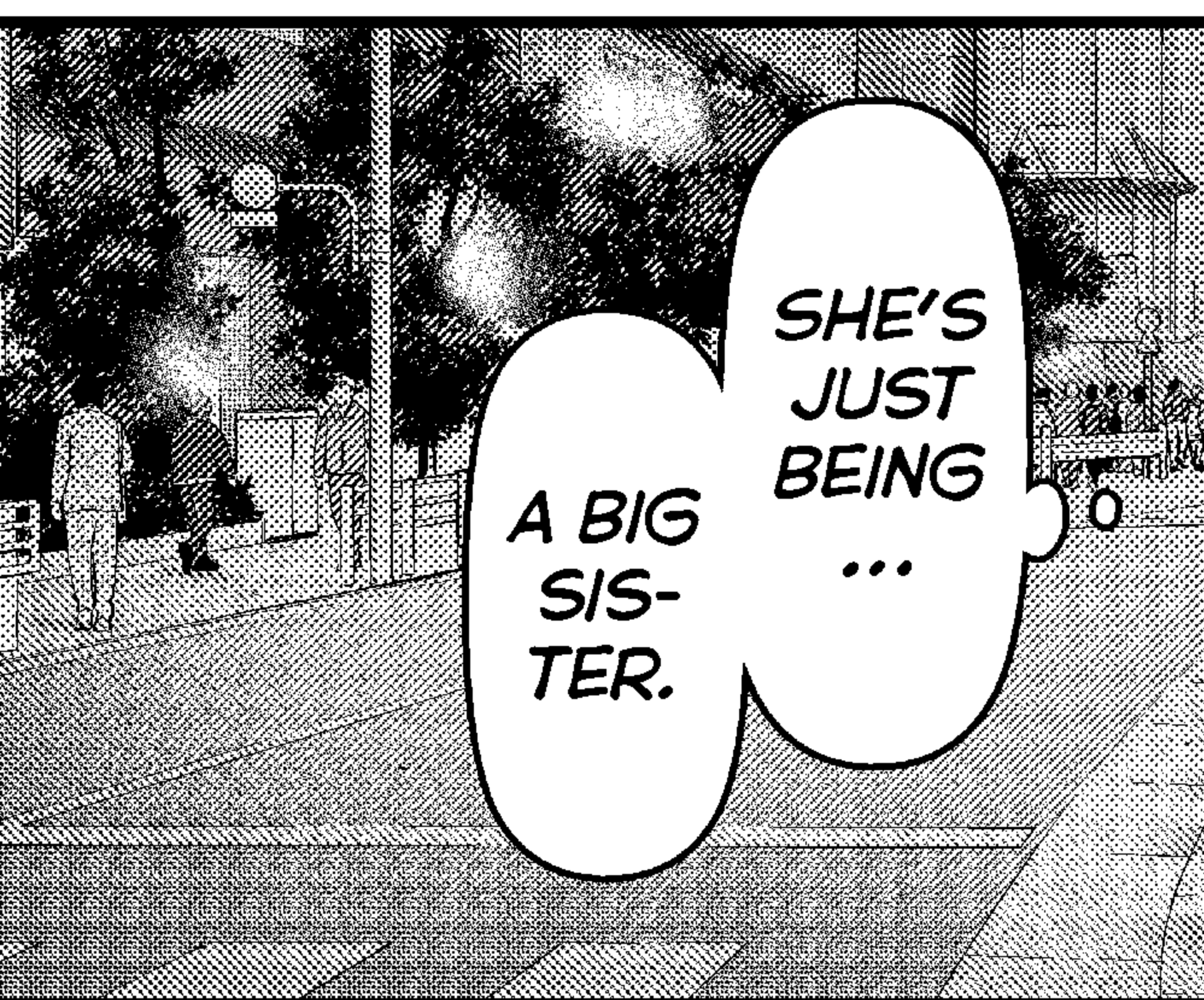
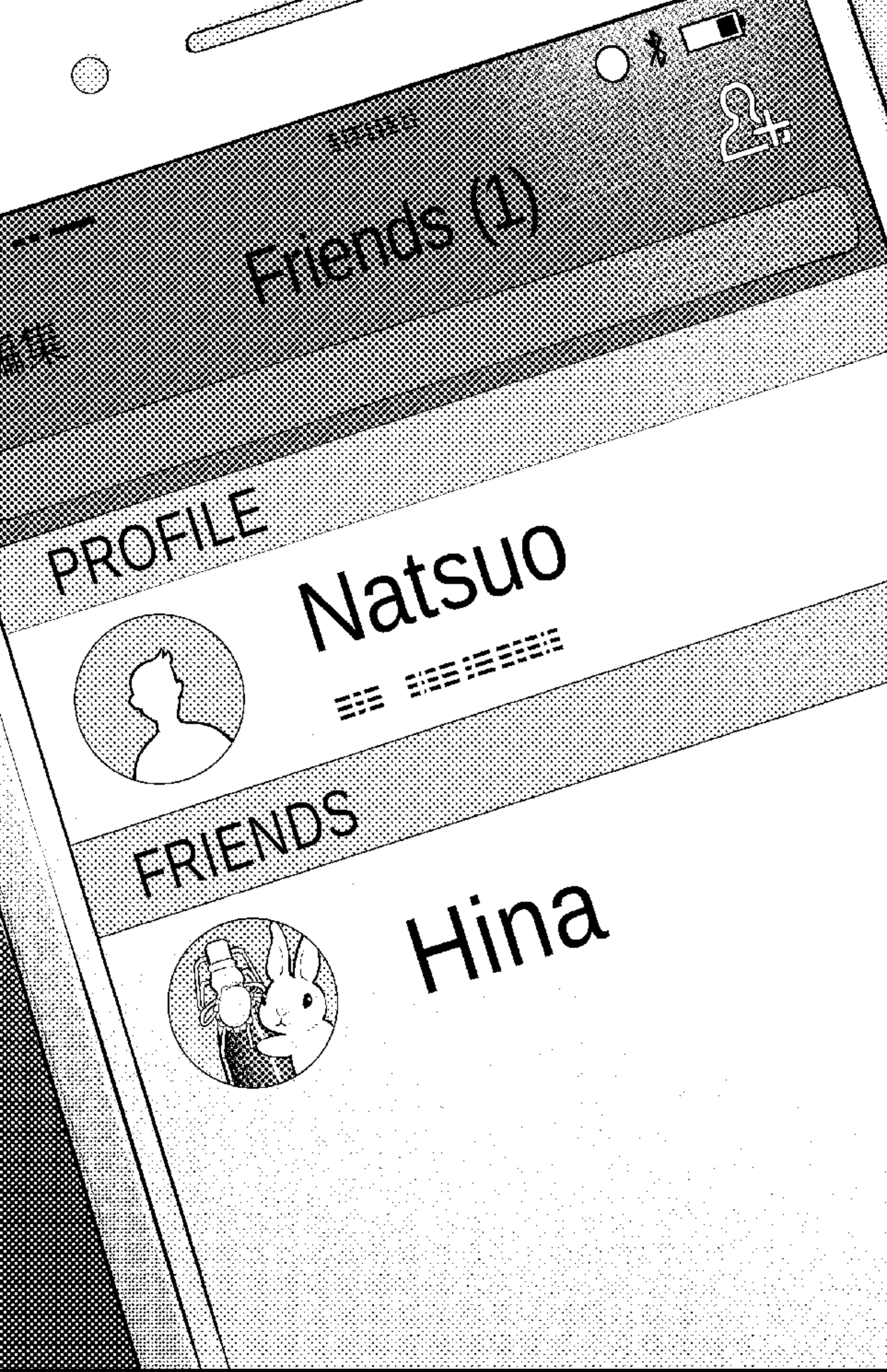
REALLY,



IF YOU  
HAVE ANY  
QUES-  
TIONS...

...YOU CAN  
MESSAGE  
ME ON LINE  
ANYTIME.









WHEN I BASICALLY TURNED THEM DOWN BEFORE.

IT FEELS KIND OF AWKWARD APPLYING ...

IT'S ALL FOR TAKING ON A BRAND-NEW WORLD! BE STRONG!



**Forester**  
Name: Natsuo Fujii  
Department: Literature, Japanese Literature  
Experience: YES / NO  
Desire Position: Playwright

LOOKS LIKE IT.

Email: nato.fujii@oam...

Self-introduction  
I've never written a script before, but I'll do my best.

DID I FILL EVERYTHING OUT?



EXCUSE ME!



AM I TOO EARLY?

NO ONE'S HERE ...



HM?



GUESS I'LL GO KILL SOME TIME AND TRY AGAIN LATER...



HUH?











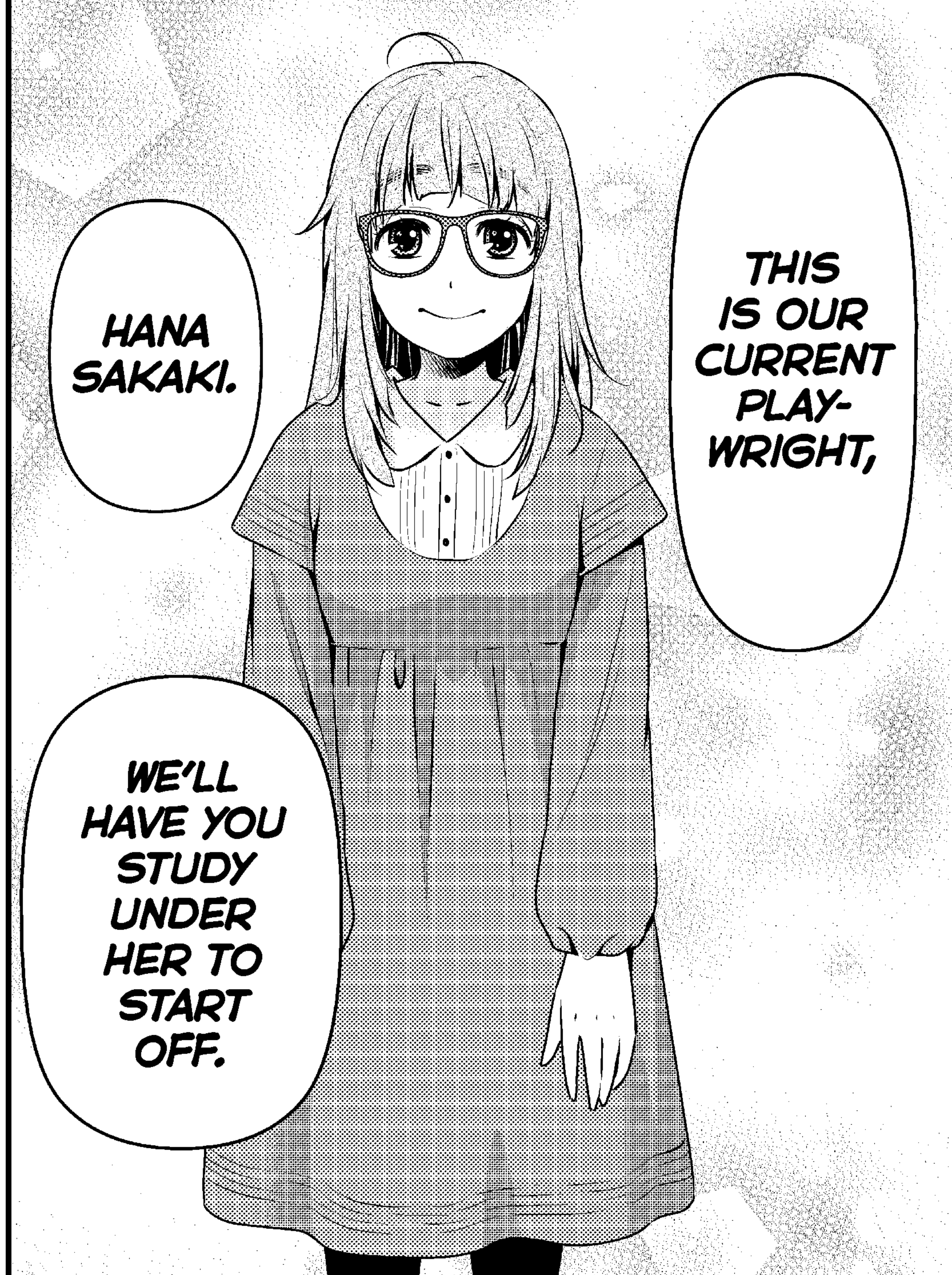






BUT  
THERE'S  
BEEN A  
SLIGHT  
CHANGE  
OF  
PLANS.

AT  
LEAST,  
THAT  
WAS THE  
IDEA,



HANA  
SAKAKI.

THIS  
IS OUR  
CURRENT  
PLAY-  
WRIGHT,

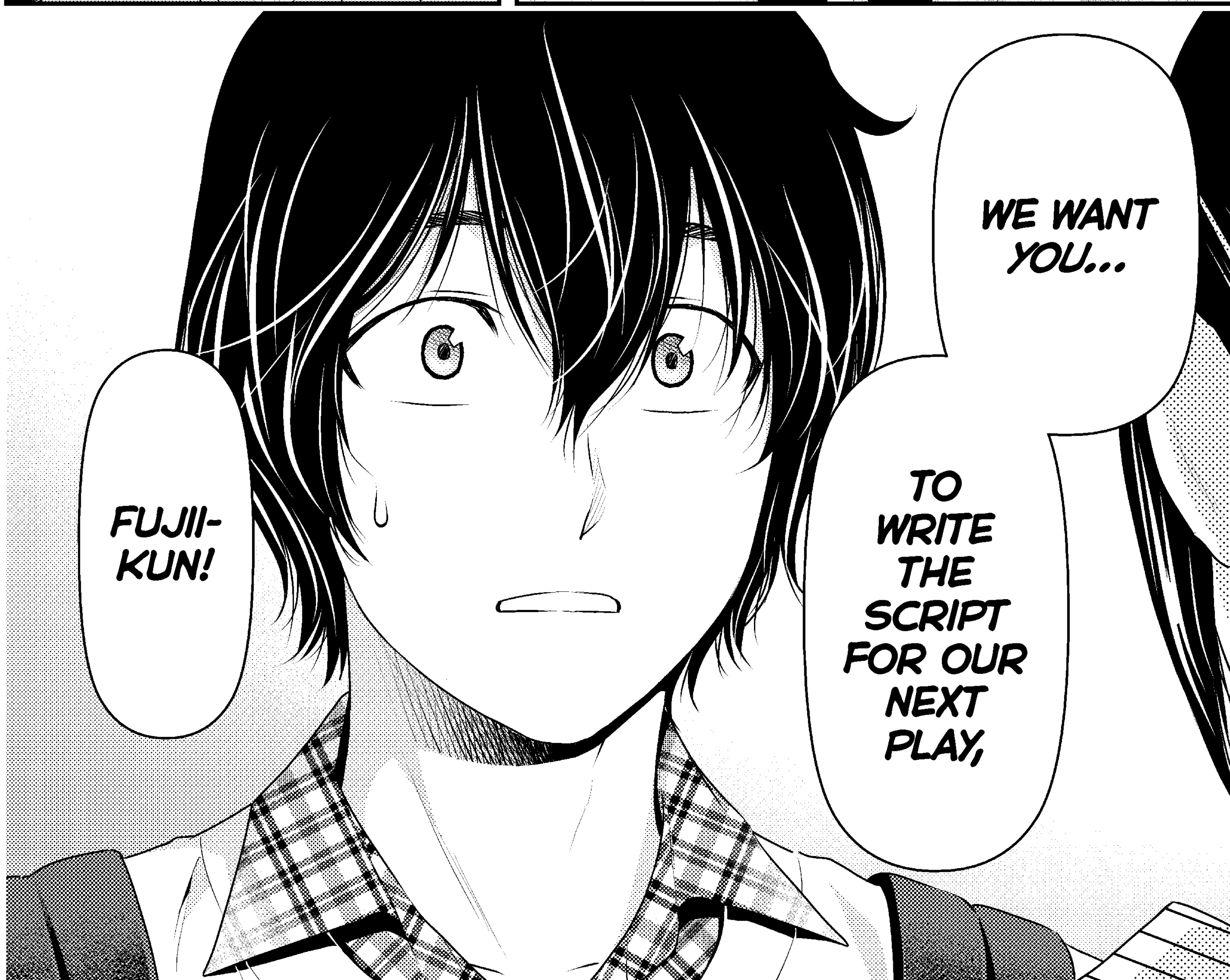
WE'LL  
HAVE YOU  
STUDY  
UNDER  
HER TO  
START  
OFF.



SHE'S NOT  
GOING TO  
BE ABLE TO  
WRITE FOR A  
WHILE.

HANA'S  
SCHEDULE  
IS PRETTY  
PACKED  
WITH  
THE JOB  
HUNTING  
SEASON  
COMING  
UP.

SO,



FUJII-  
KUN!

WE WANT  
YOU...

TO  
WRITE  
THE  
SCRIPT  
FOR OUR  
NEXT  
PLAY,



CHAPTER 142: FIRST JOB



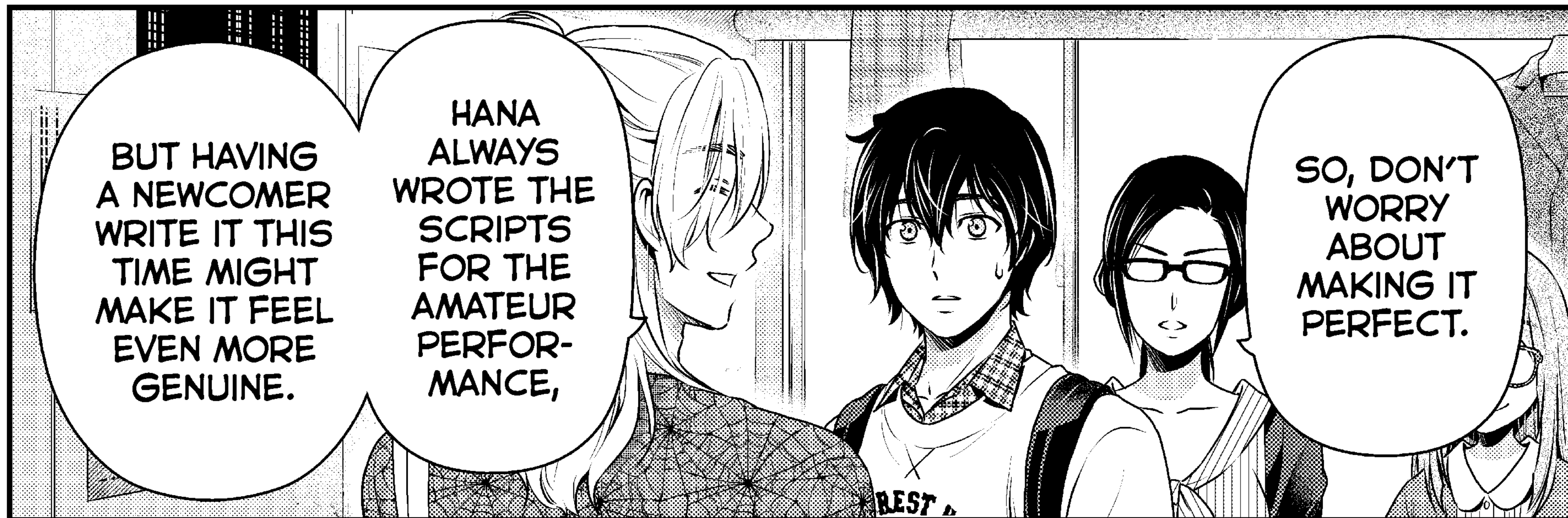




THERE ARE  
A LOT OF  
PEOPLE WHO  
ONLY COME  
TO SEE THE  
AMATEUR  
PERFORMANCE  
EVERY YEAR  
TO ENJOY THAT  
UNSOPHIS-  
TICATED  
FRESHNESS.

THINK OF  
IT LIKE  
THE DEBUT  
ACTS IN  
KABUKI  
THEATER.

THE  
MAJORITY  
OF THE  
CAST IS  
MADE UP  
OF NEW  
MEMBERS.



BUT HAVING  
A NEWCOMER  
WRITE IT THIS  
TIME MIGHT  
MAKE IT FEEL  
EVEN MORE  
GENUINE.

HANA  
ALWAYS  
WROTE THE  
SCRIPTS FOR  
THE AMATEUR  
PERFORM-  
ANCE,

SO, DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
MAKING IT  
PERFECT.



...

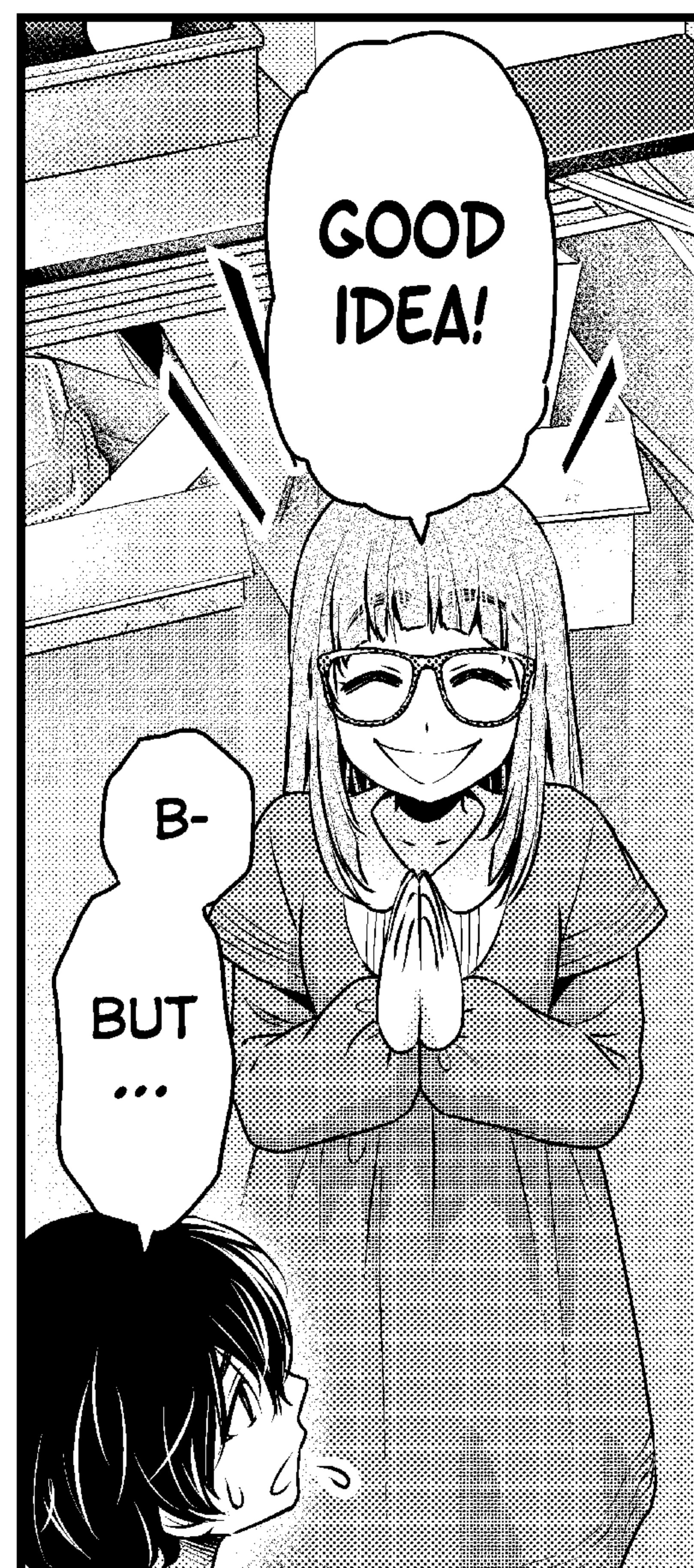
I'LL ASK  
ONE OF  
THE OTHER  
FIRST-  
YEARS IF  
YOU'RE  
NOT UP  
FOR IT.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?



EVERYTHING  
I EXPERIENCED  
FACILITATED  
MY WRITING  
...

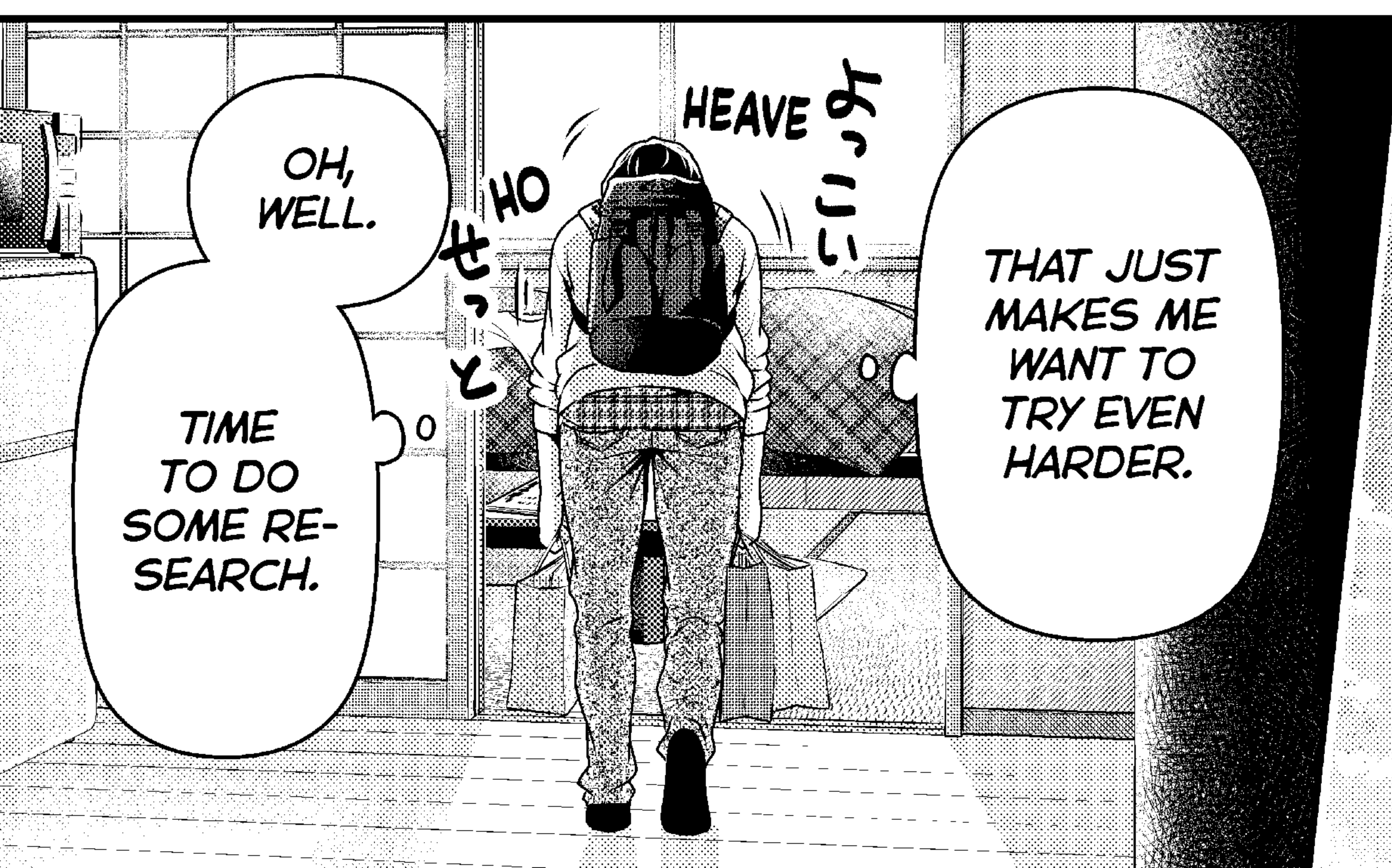
HUH  
?



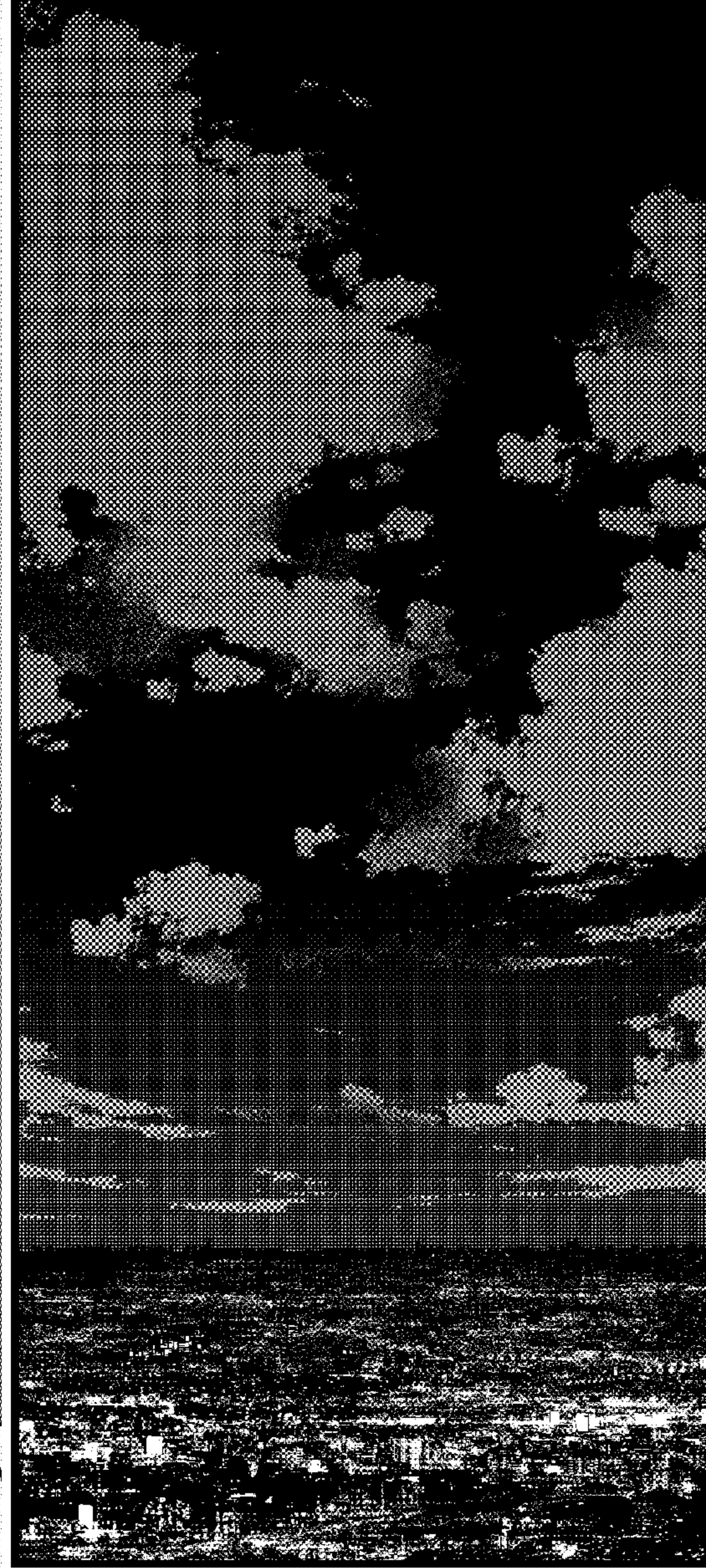
GOOD  
IDEA!

B-  
BUT  
...

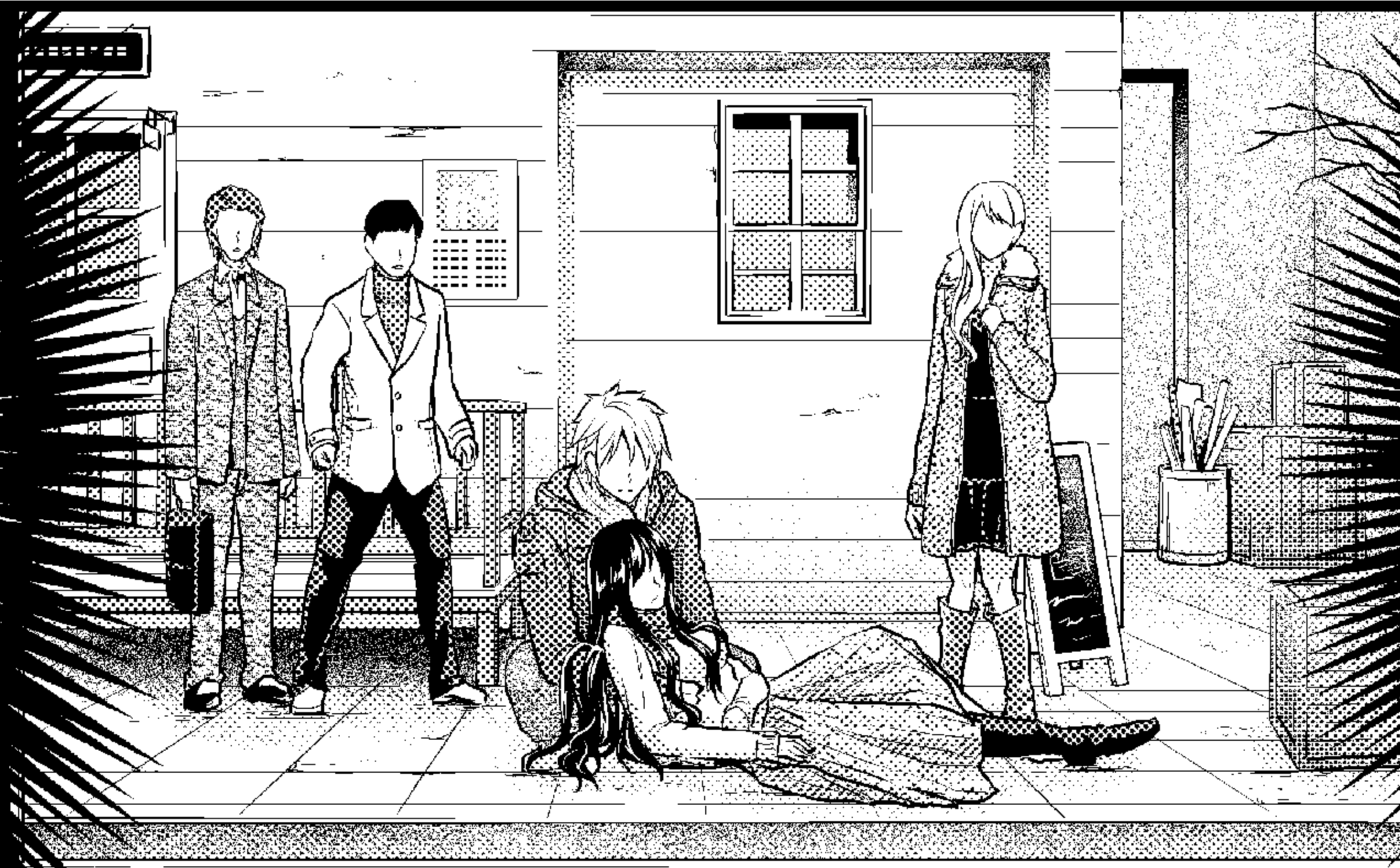








IT'S  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
GOOD!



WHAT IS  
THIS?!

HERE.

BUT I  
HAD NO  
IDEA THEY  
COULD  
BE THIS  
MOVING...

I'VE  
NEVER  
REALLY  
WATCHED  
ANY  
PLAYS  
UNTIL  
NOW,

OH...  
THANKS.

THE FOREST

OPENING  
ACTS THAT  
PULL YOU  
RIGHT IN,  
CHARMING  
CHARACTERS,

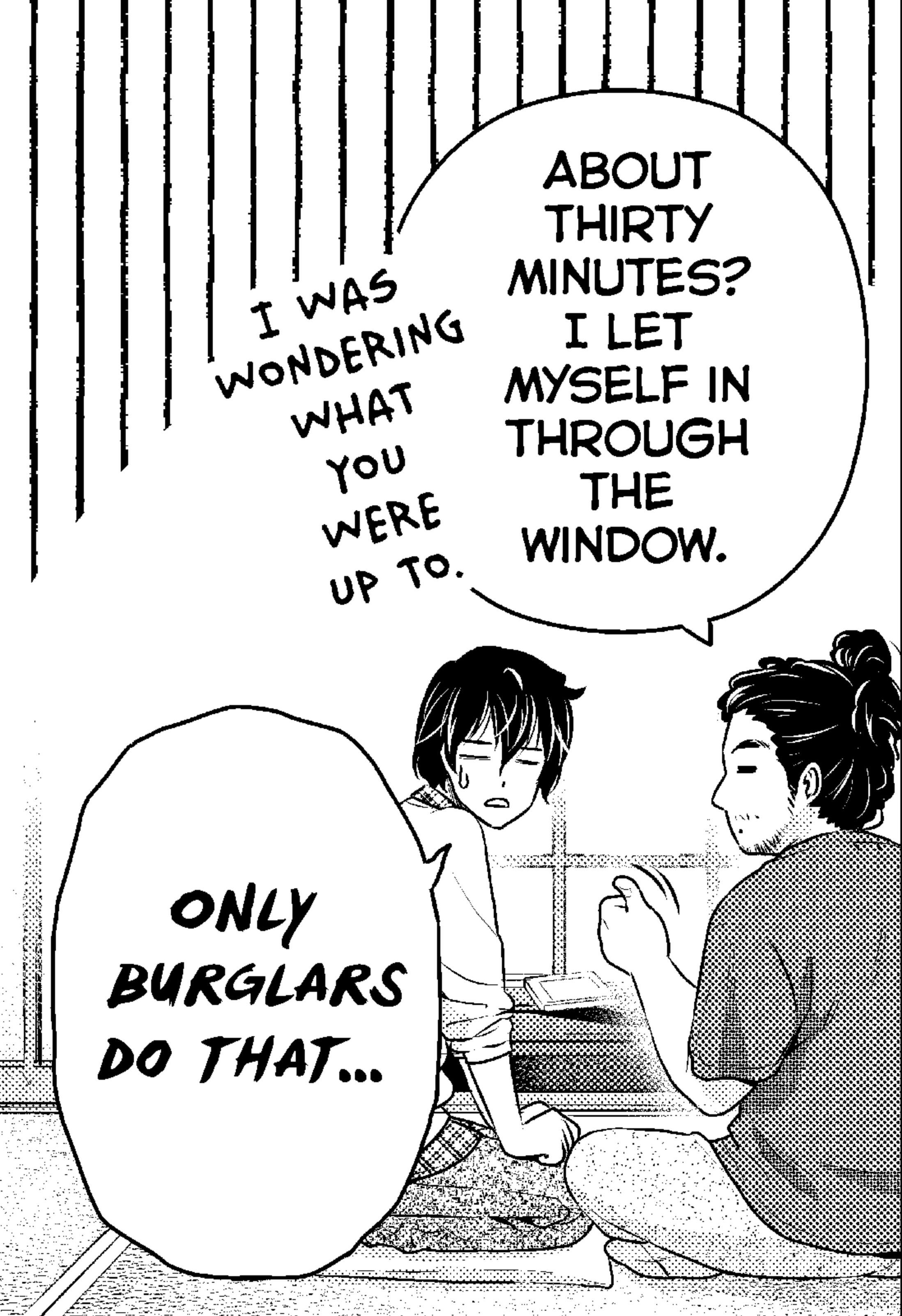
PARTS  
THAT MAKE  
YOU LAUGH,  
OTHERS  
THAT MAKE  
YOU CRY...

CONTEM-  
PORARY  
DRAMAS,  
FANTASY,  
PERIOD  
PLAYS...

THE GENRES  
ARE ALL OVER  
THE PLACE,  
BUT THEY'RE  
ALL REALLY  
INTERESTING!







I WAS  
WONDERING  
WHAT  
YOU  
WERE  
UP TO.

ABOUT  
THIRTY  
MINUTES?  
I LET  
MYSELF IN  
THROUGH  
THE  
WINDOW.

ONLY  
BURGLARS  
DO THAT...



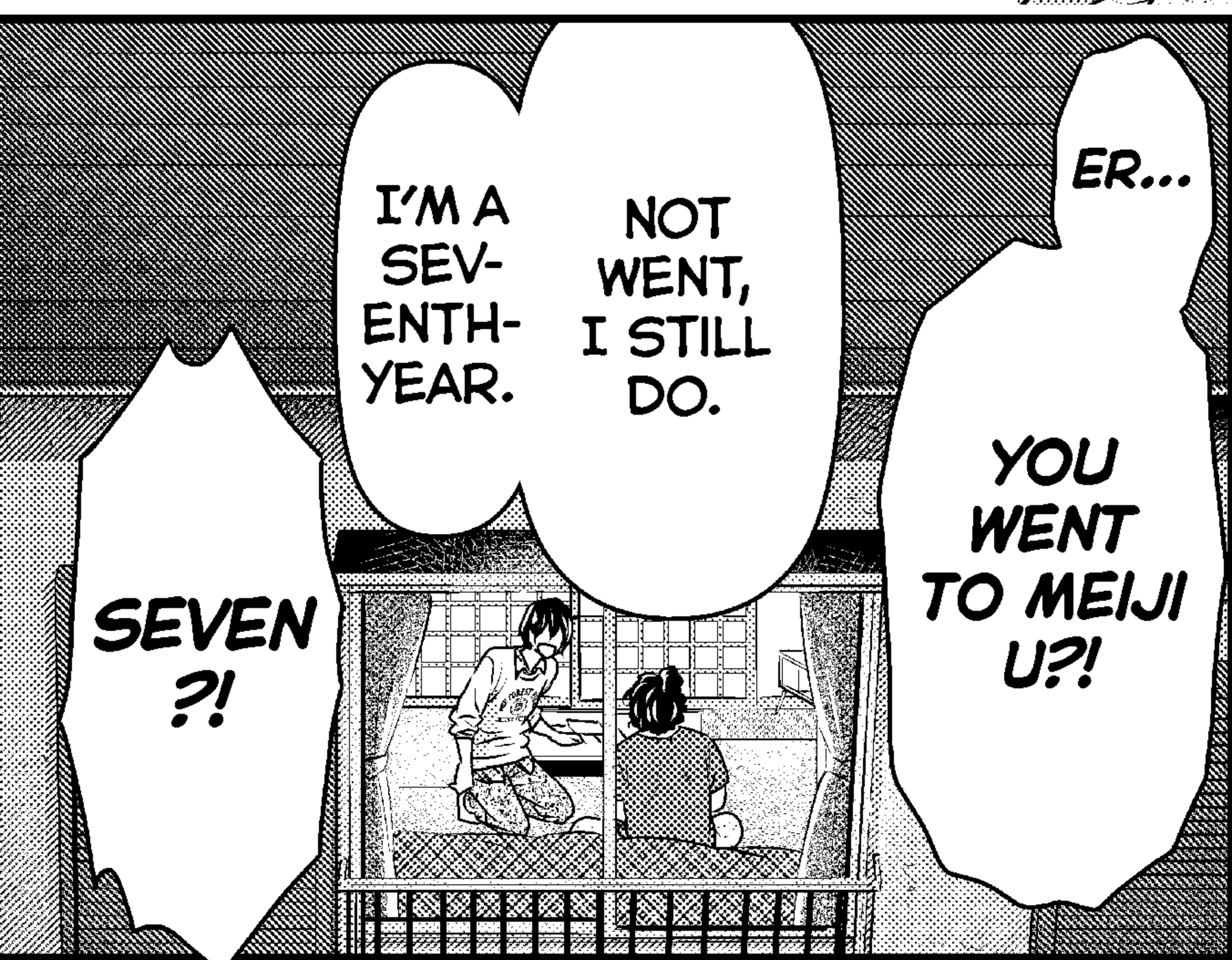
MAN...  
REAL TEAR-  
JERKER,  
AIN'T IT?

WAIT,

**HUH  
?!**

HOW  
LONG  
HAVE YOU  
BEEN  
THERE?!

Ben and  
Jerry



**SEVEN  
?!**

I'M A  
SEV-  
ENTH-  
YEAR.

NOT  
WENT,  
I STILL  
DO.

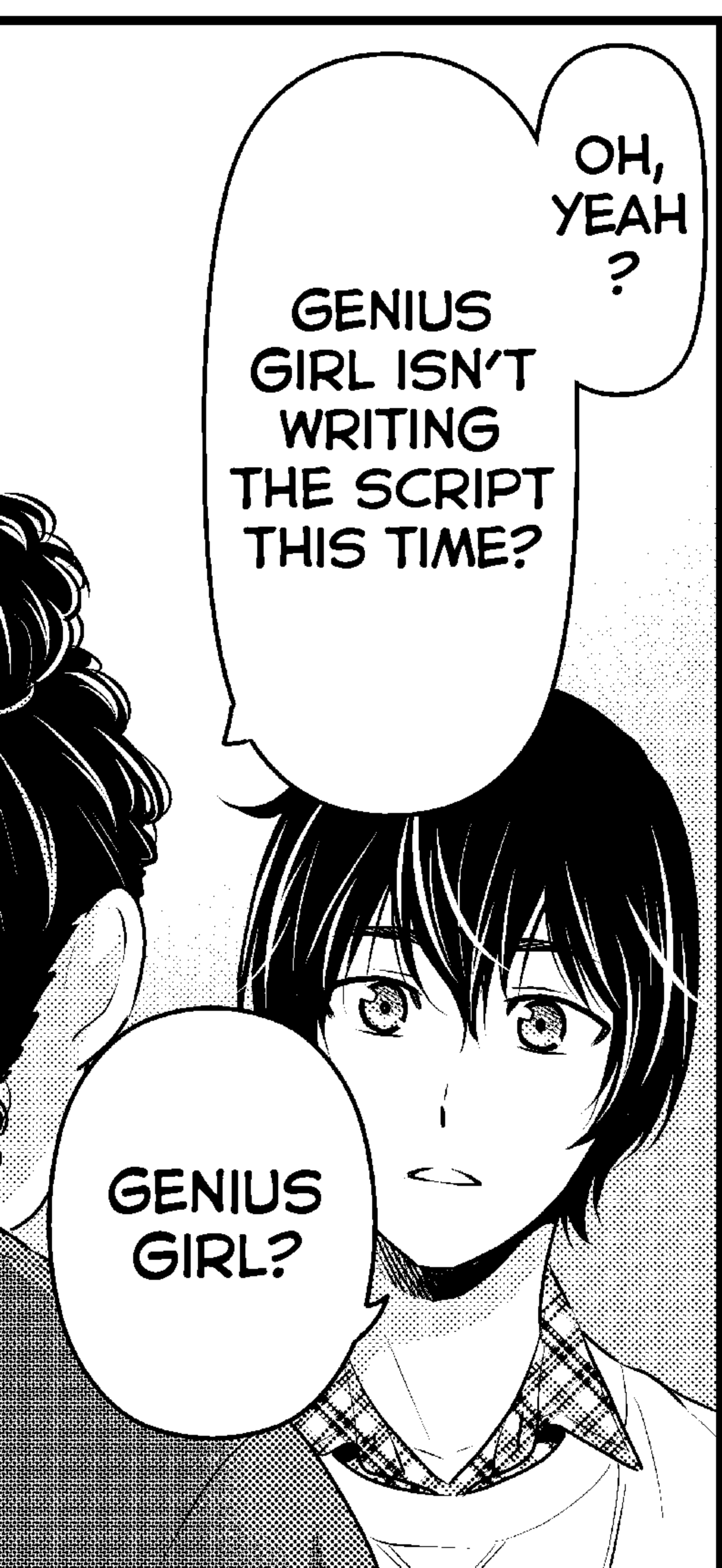
ER...

YOU  
WENT  
TO MEIJI  
U?!



YOU'D NEVER  
GUESS THEY'RE  
A COLLEGE  
TROUPE WITH  
THE QUALITY  
THEY PUT OUT,  
HUH?

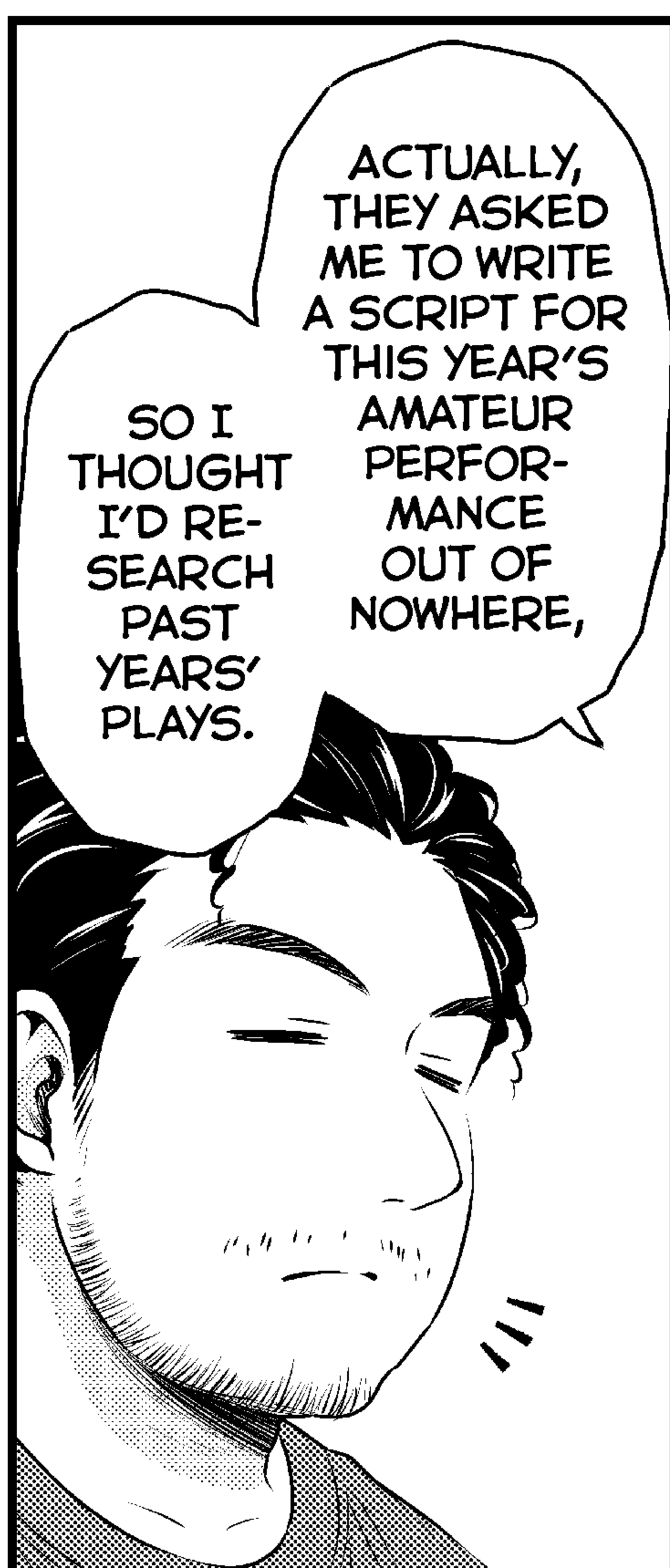
I'VE  
HELPED  
MAKE  
PROPS  
FOR THESE  
GUYS A  
NUMBER  
OF TIMES.



GENIUS  
GIRL?

GENIUS  
GIRL ISN'T  
WRITING  
THE SCRIPT  
THIS TIME?

OH,  
YEAH  
?



SO I  
THOUGHT  
I'D RE-  
SEARCH  
PAST  
YEARS'  
PLAYS.

ACTUALLY,  
THEY ASKED  
ME TO WRITE  
A SCRIPT FOR  
THIS YEAR'S  
AMATEUR PER-  
FORMANCE  
OUT OF NOWHERE,

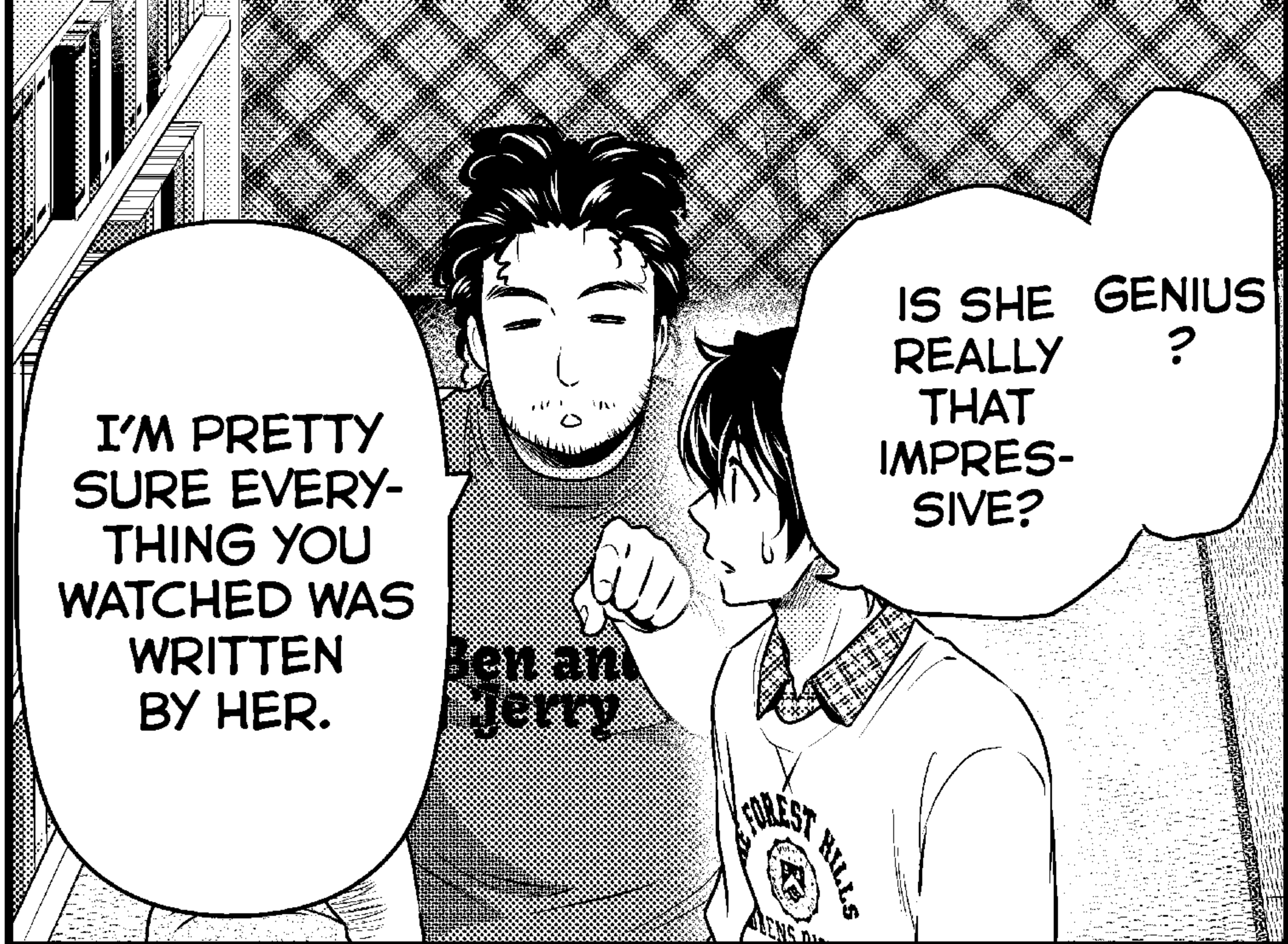


YEAH.

AH.

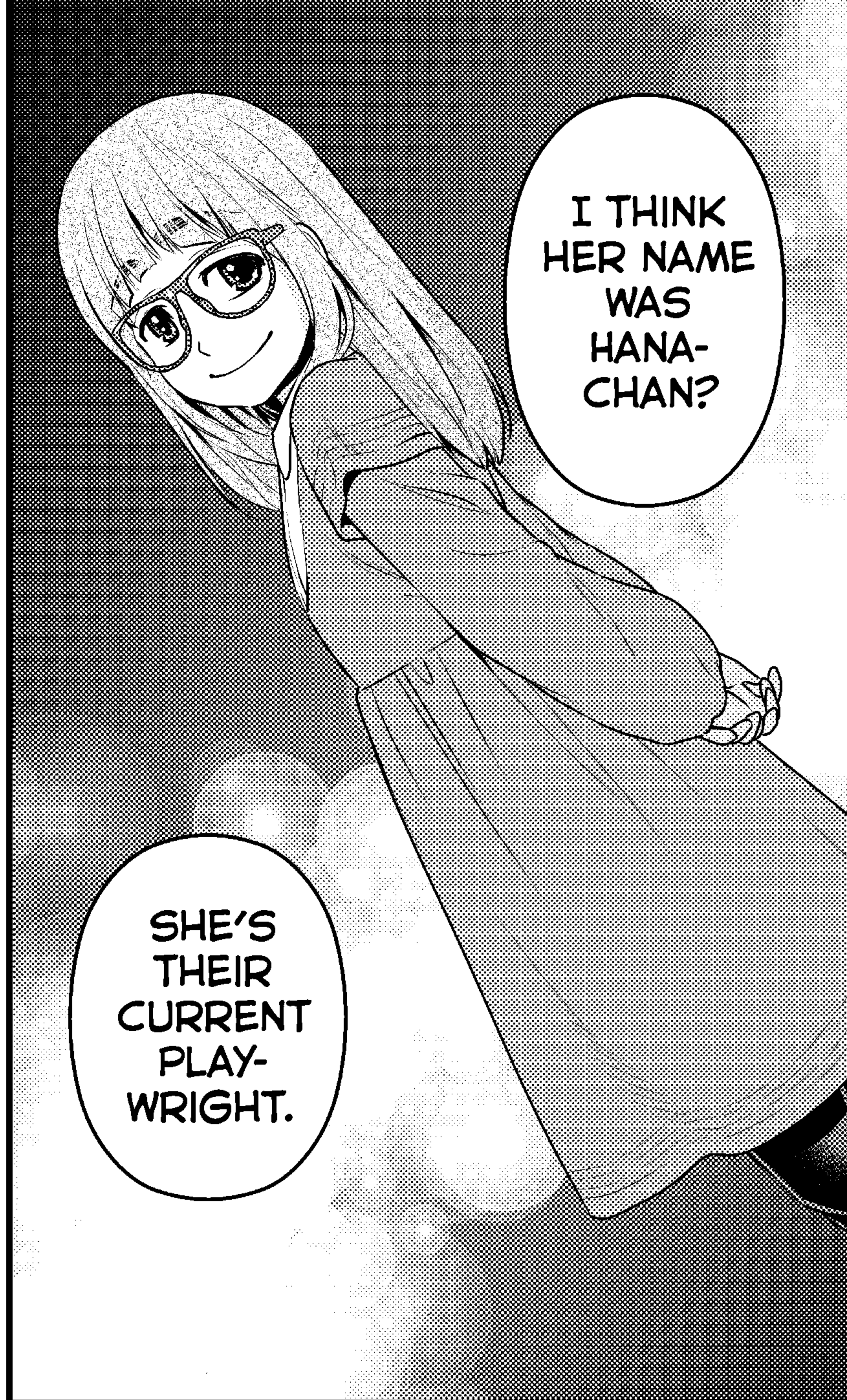
YOU WERE  
PRACTICALLY  
GLUED TO  
THE SCREEN.  
DID YOU JOIN  
FORESTER?





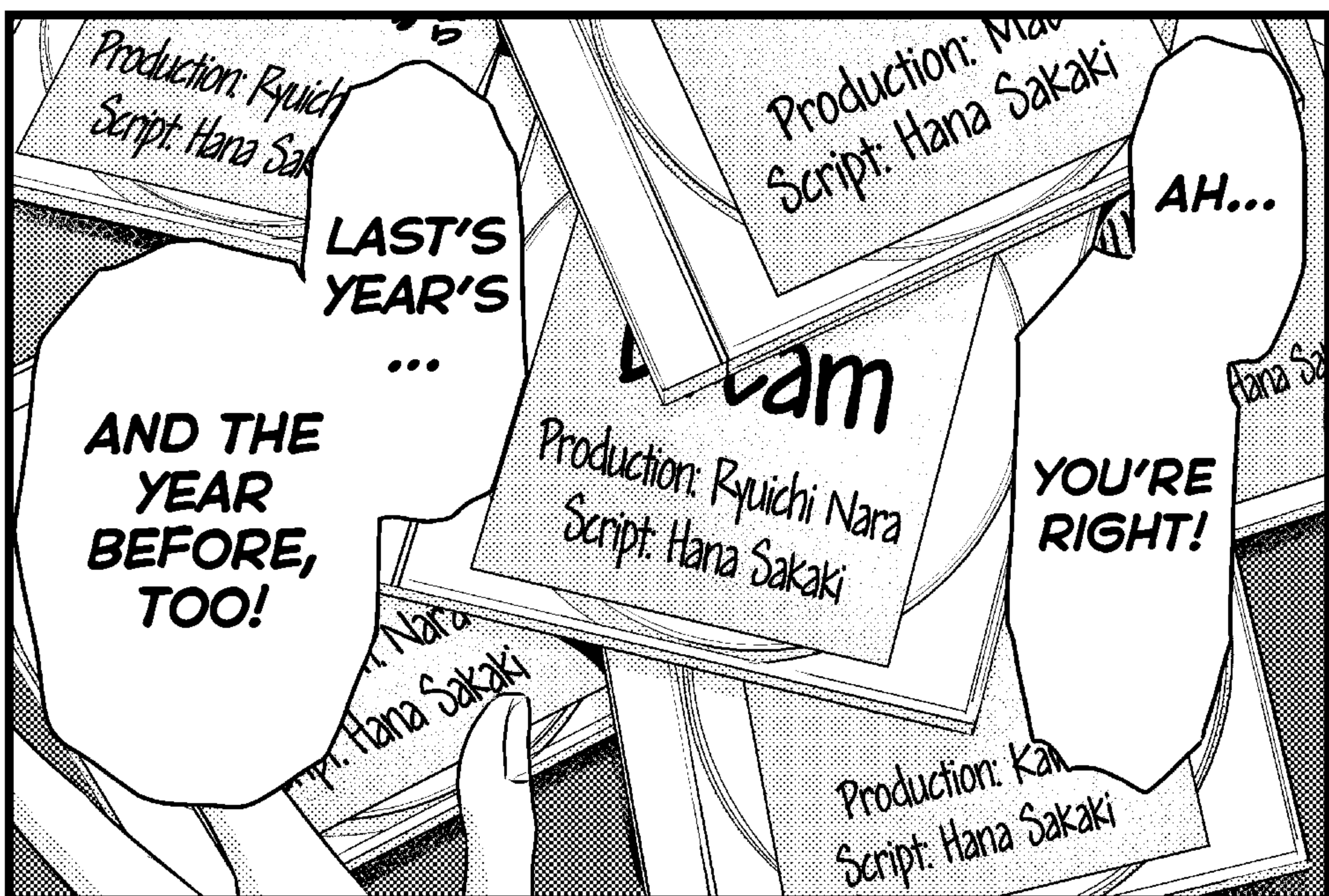
I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYTHING YOU WATCHED WAS WRITTEN BY HER.

IS SHE REALLY THAT IMPRESSIVE? GENIUS?



I THINK HER NAME WAS HANA-CHAN?

SHE'S THEIR CURRENT PLAY-WRIGHT.

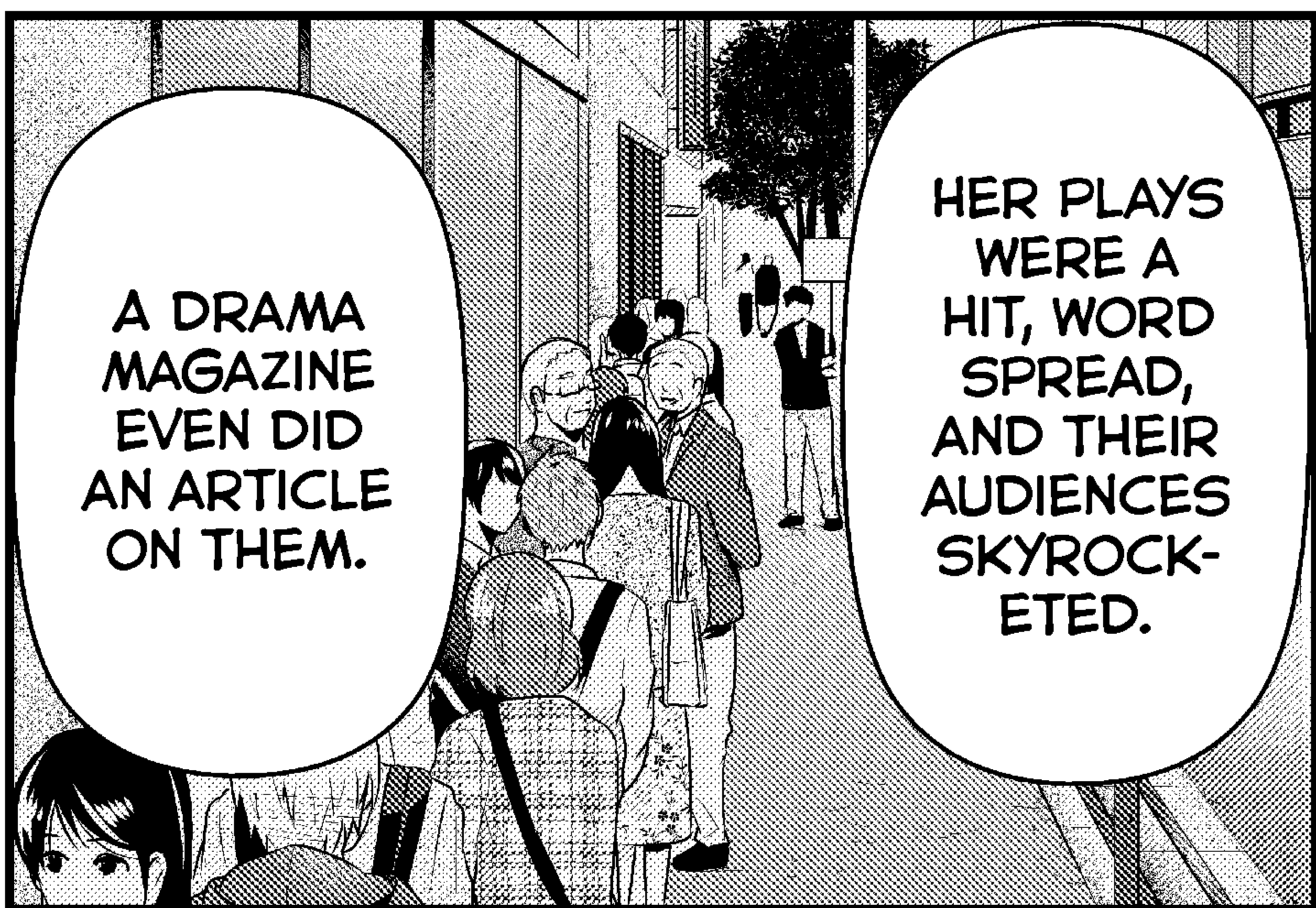


AND THE YEAR BEFORE, TOO!

LAST'S YEAR'S ...

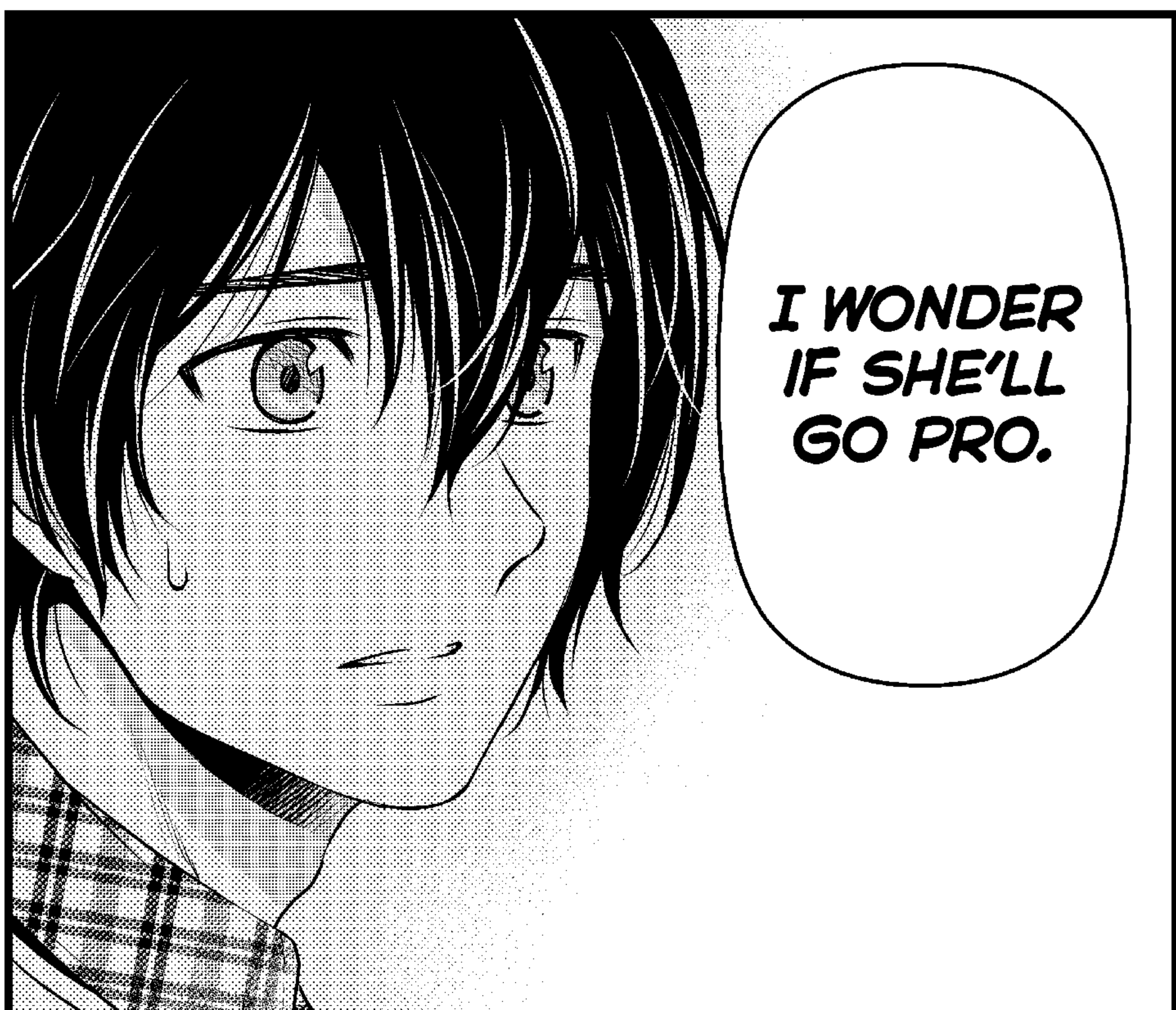
YOU'RE RIGHT!

AH...

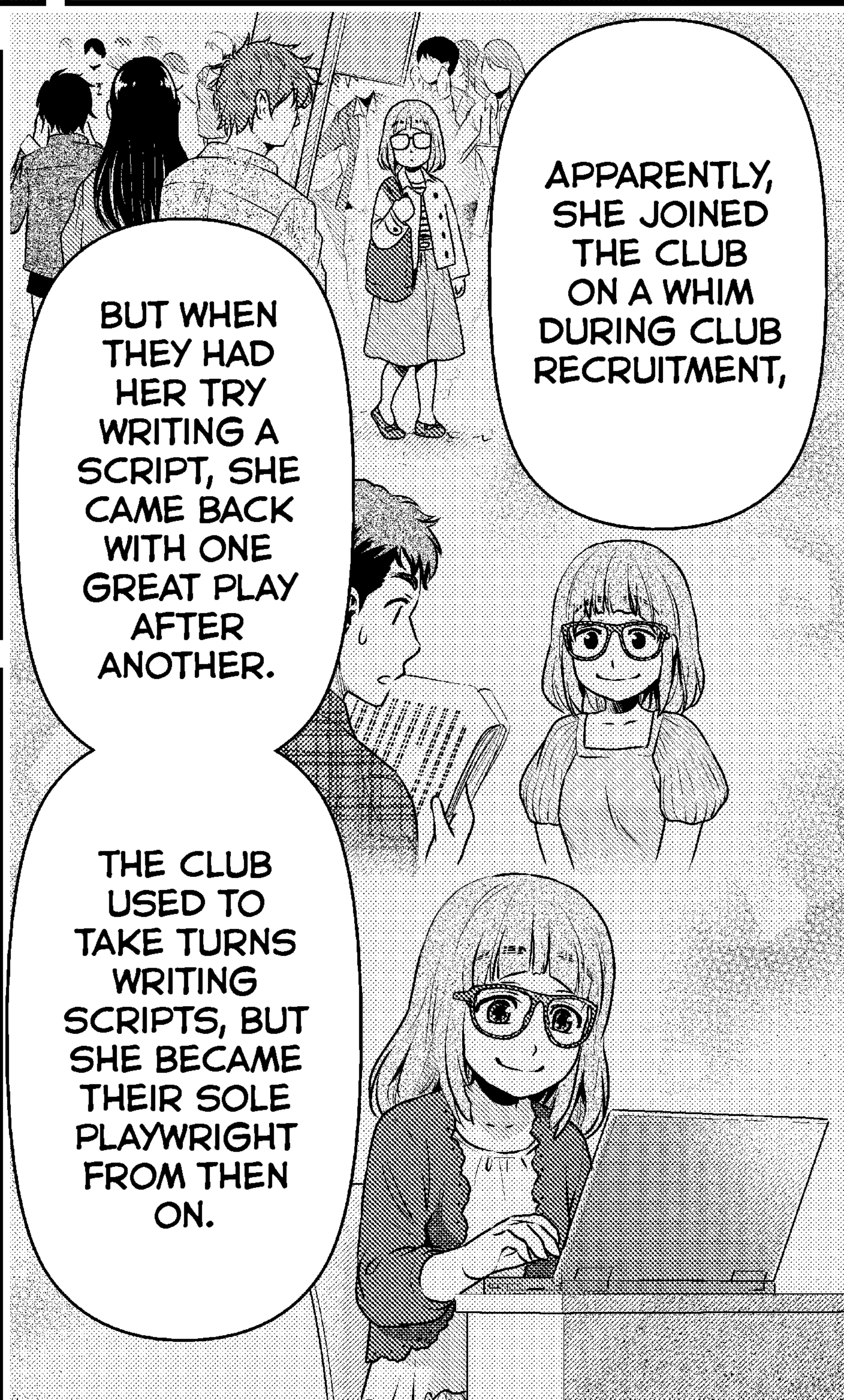


A DRAMA MAGAZINE EVEN DID AN ARTICLE ON THEM.

HER PLAYS WERE A HIT, WORD SPREAD, AND THEIR AUDIENCES SKYROCKETED.



I WONDER IF SHE'LL GO PRO.



APPARENTLY, SHE JOINED THE CLUB ON A WHIM DURING CLUB RECRUITMENT,

BUT WHEN THEY HAD HER TRY WRITING A SCRIPT, SHE CAME BACK WITH ONE GREAT PLAY AFTER ANOTHER.

THE CLUB USED TO TAKE TURNS WRITING SCRIPTS, BUT SHE BECAME THEIR SOLE PLAYWRIGHT FROM THEN ON.





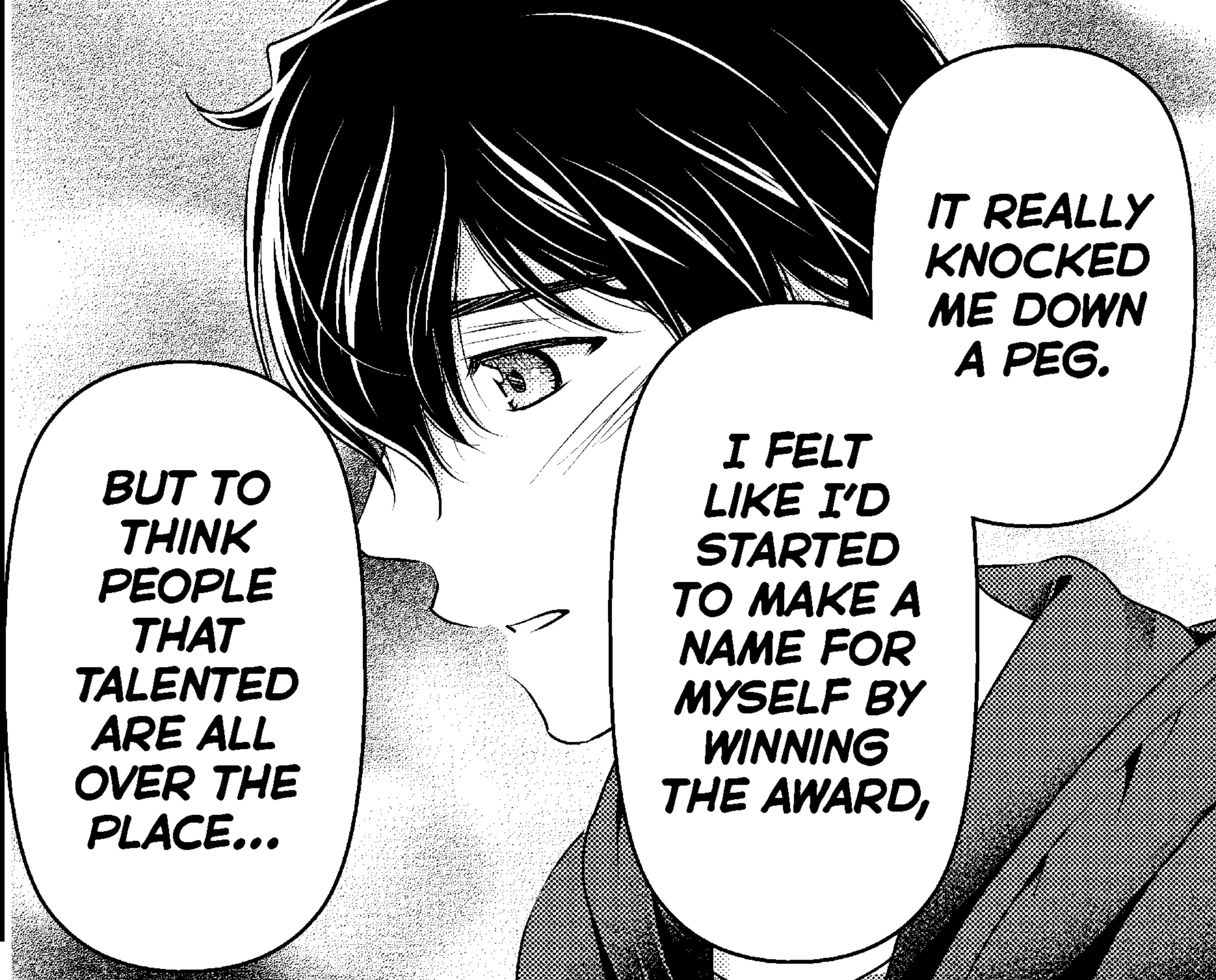




DO YOU  
HAVE  
TIME FOR  
THAT?

YOU SAID  
OPENING  
NIGHT'S  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF JUNE,  
RIGHT?

HUH  
?



BUT TO  
THINK  
PEOPLE  
THAT  
TALENTED  
ARE ALL  
OVER THE  
PLACE...

I FELT  
LIKE I'D  
STARTED  
TO MAKE A  
NAME FOR  
MYSELF BY  
WINNING  
THE AWARD,

IT REALLY  
KNOCKED  
ME DOWN  
A PEG.



BOREDOM,  
AND SELF-  
ISHNESS.

ARE  
USUALLY  
ROOTED  
IN TWO  
THINGS,

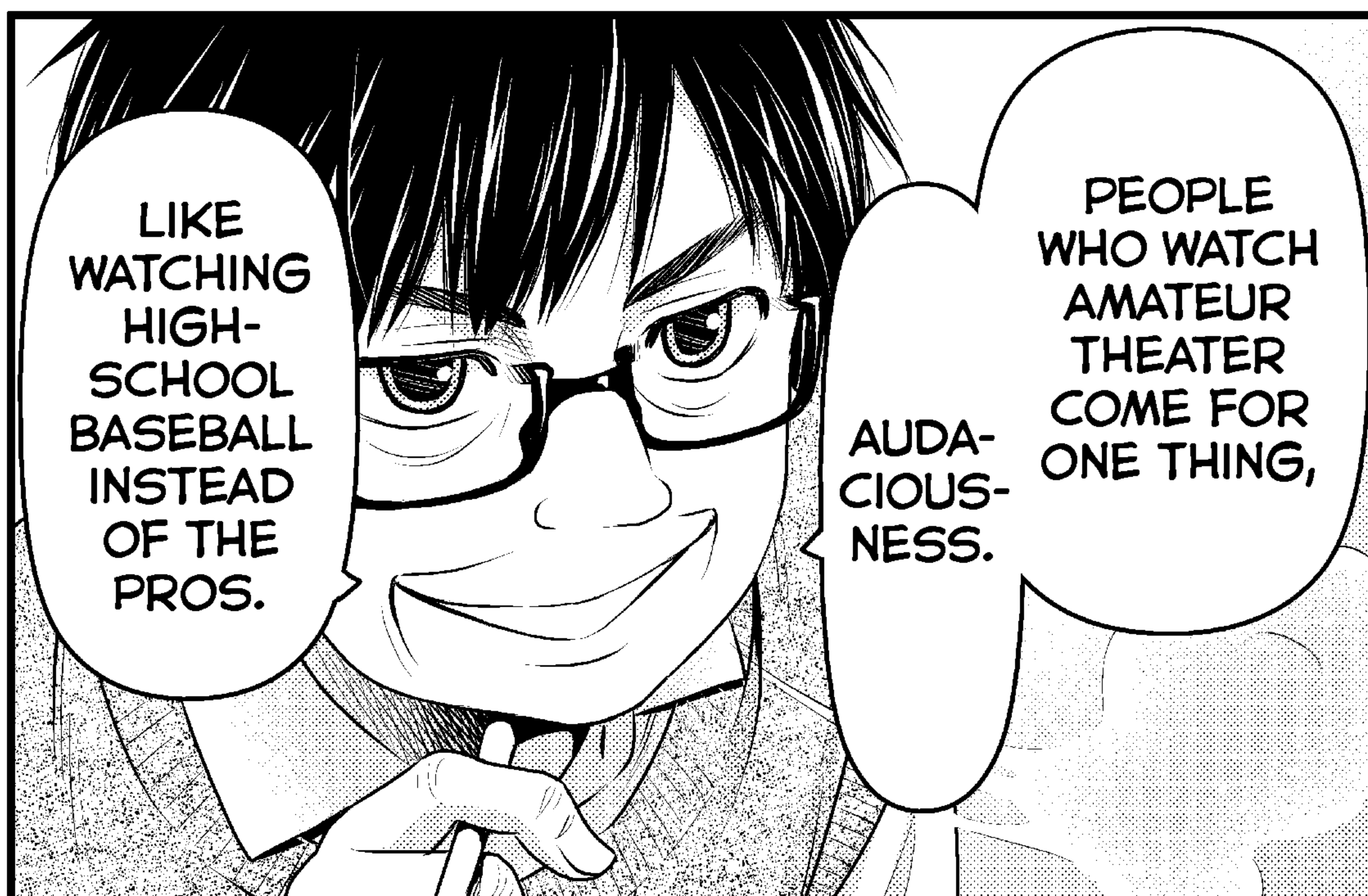
THE  
WOES OF  
GENERALLY  
WELL-OFF  
PEOPLE...

I'M ASKIN' IF  
YOU'VE GOT  
TIME TO PLAY  
MR. SENSITIVE  
AND COMPARE  
YOURSELF TO  
OTHERS.



I GUESS I  
JUST GOT  
A LITTLE  
ANXIOUS...

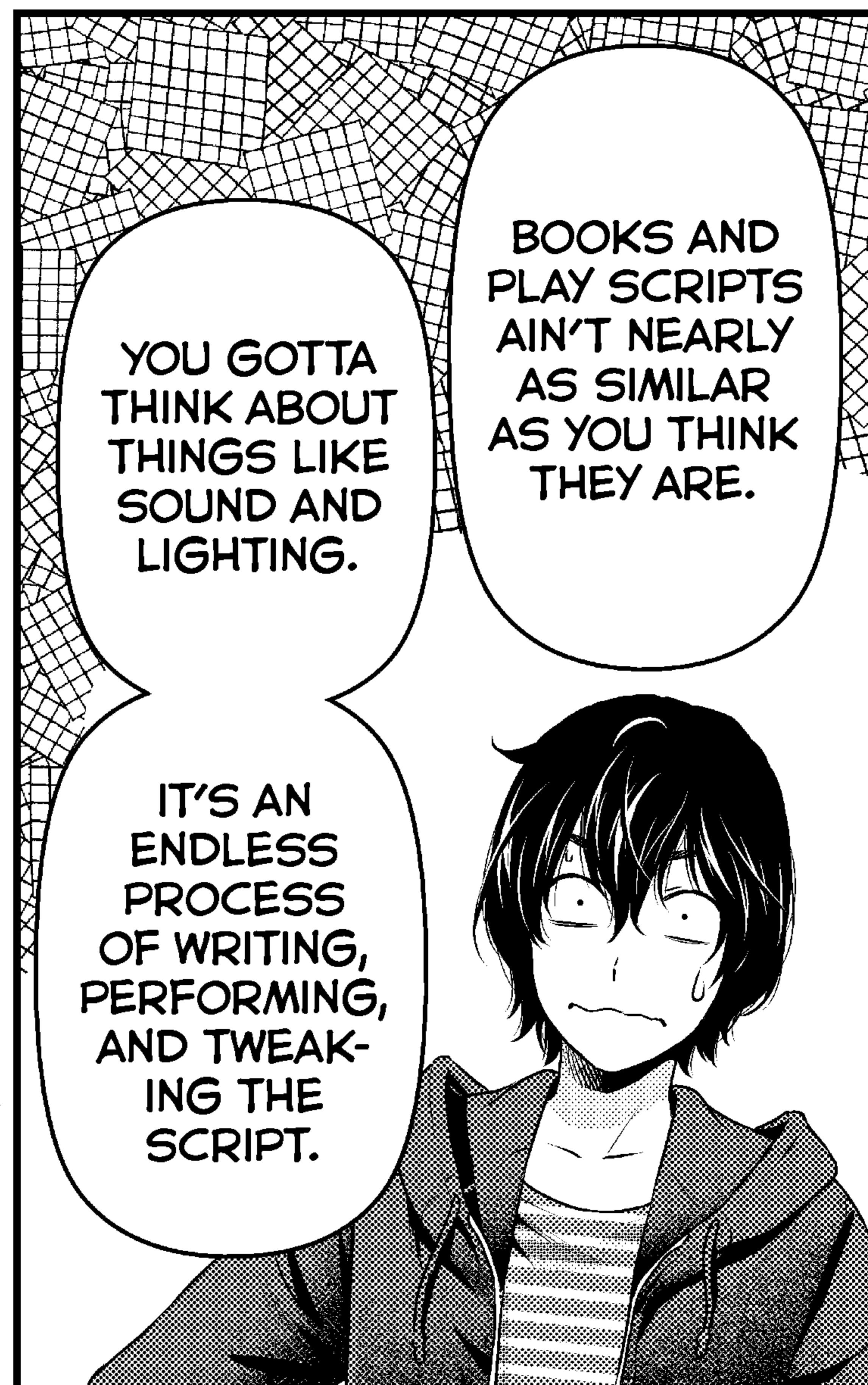
TH-  
THAT'S  
TRUE  
...



LIKE  
WATCHING  
HIGH-  
SCHOOL  
BASEBALL  
INSTEAD  
OF THE  
PROS.

AUDA-  
CIOUS-  
NESS.

PEOPLE  
WHO WATCH  
AMATEUR  
THEATER  
COME FOR  
ONE THING,

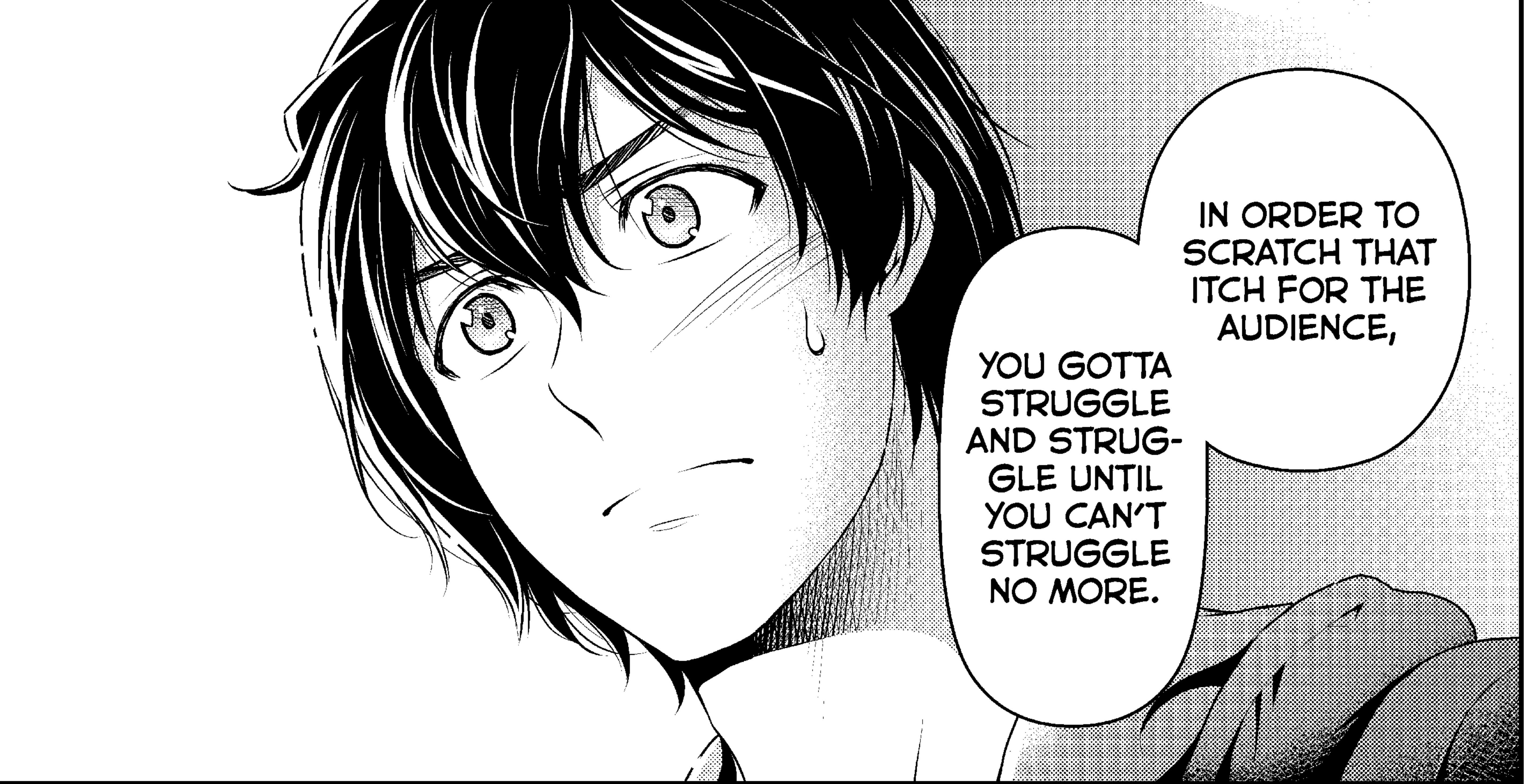


YOU GOTTA  
THINK ABOUT  
THINGS LIKE  
SOUND AND  
LIGHTING.

BOOKS AND  
PLAY SCRIPTS  
AIN'T NEARLY  
AS SIMILAR  
AS YOU THINK  
THEY ARE.

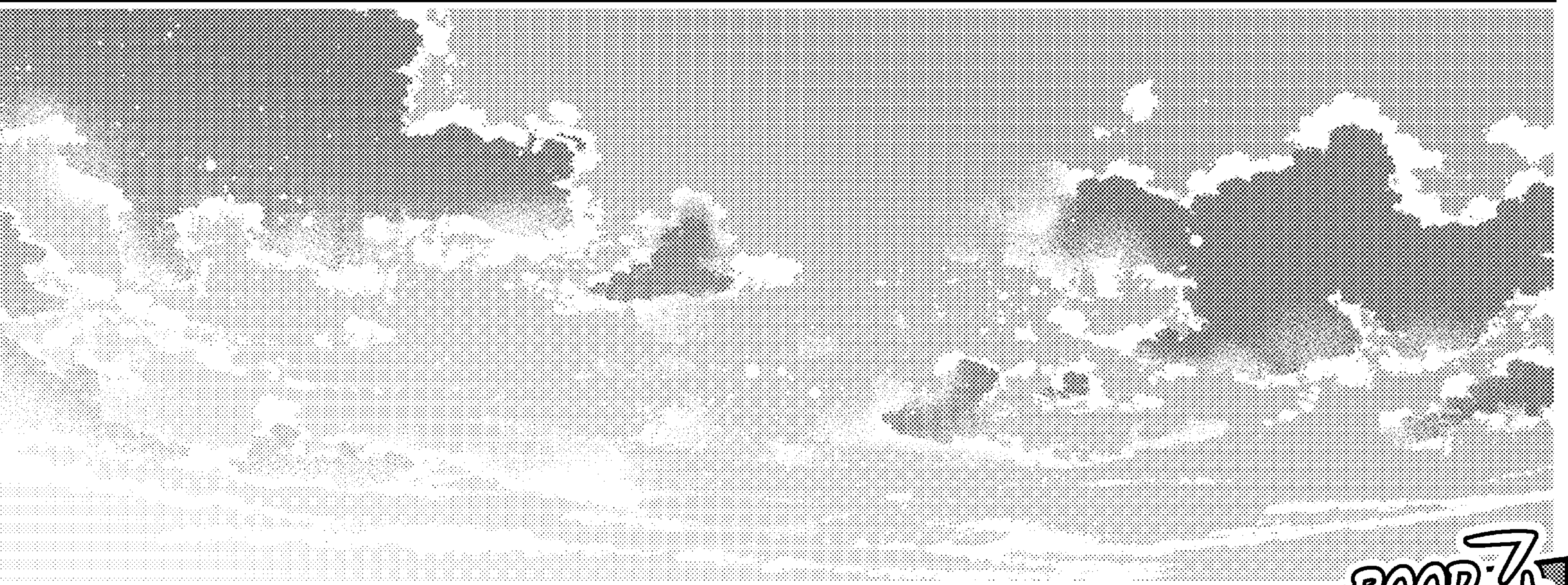
IT'S AN  
ENDLESS  
PROCESS  
OF WRITING,  
PERFORMING,  
AND TWEAK-  
ING THE  
SCRIPT.





YOU GOTTA  
STRUGGLE  
AND STRUG-  
GLE UNTIL  
YOU CAN'T  
STRUGGLE  
NO MORE.

IN ORDER TO  
SCRATCH THAT  
ITCH FOR THE  
AUDIENCE,



I  
THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
GONNA  
USE THAT  
OLD FLIP  
PHONE  
FOREVER.

I'M SUR-  
PRISED  
YOU  
DECIDED  
TO GET A  
SMART-  
PHONE.

I  
THOUGHT  
I MIGHT  
NOT GET  
ANOTHER  
CHANCE IF  
I DIDN'T  
UPGRADE  
NOW.

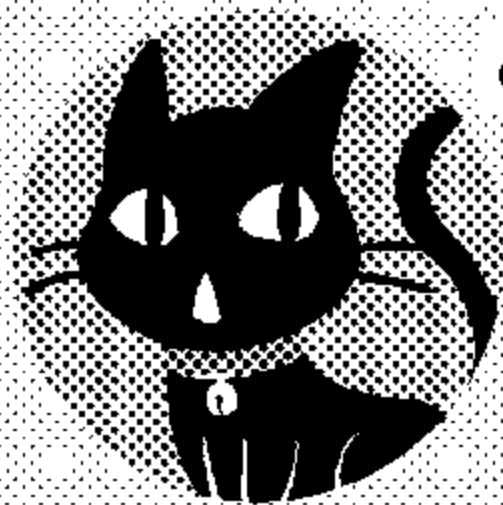
YEAH,  
WELL,



AAAND,  
THERE.  
YOU'RE  
ADDED.

AH,  
GOT IT.

BOOP~☆~



Rui

Added





BY THE WAY,

DID YOU KNOW ?



OH!

SORRY, SORRY.

IT MIGHT'VE FALLEN OUT OF MY BAG.

DON'T LOSE IT AGAIN...

OH, YEAH.

HERE'S YOUR HAIRPIN.



...IS RIGHT DOWN THE BLOCK.

HINA-NEE'S NEW WORK-PLACE...



SHE SAID SHE SURPRISED SHE RAN INTO YOU ON THE WAY HOME.

HINA-NEE TOLD ME.

!



...

SO I HEAR.





LISTEN ...

THERE'D HAVE TO BE SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH ME IF ANYTHING DID HAPPEN AFTER I SAID ALL THAT ABOUT HOW "YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME."

WHAT?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT...?

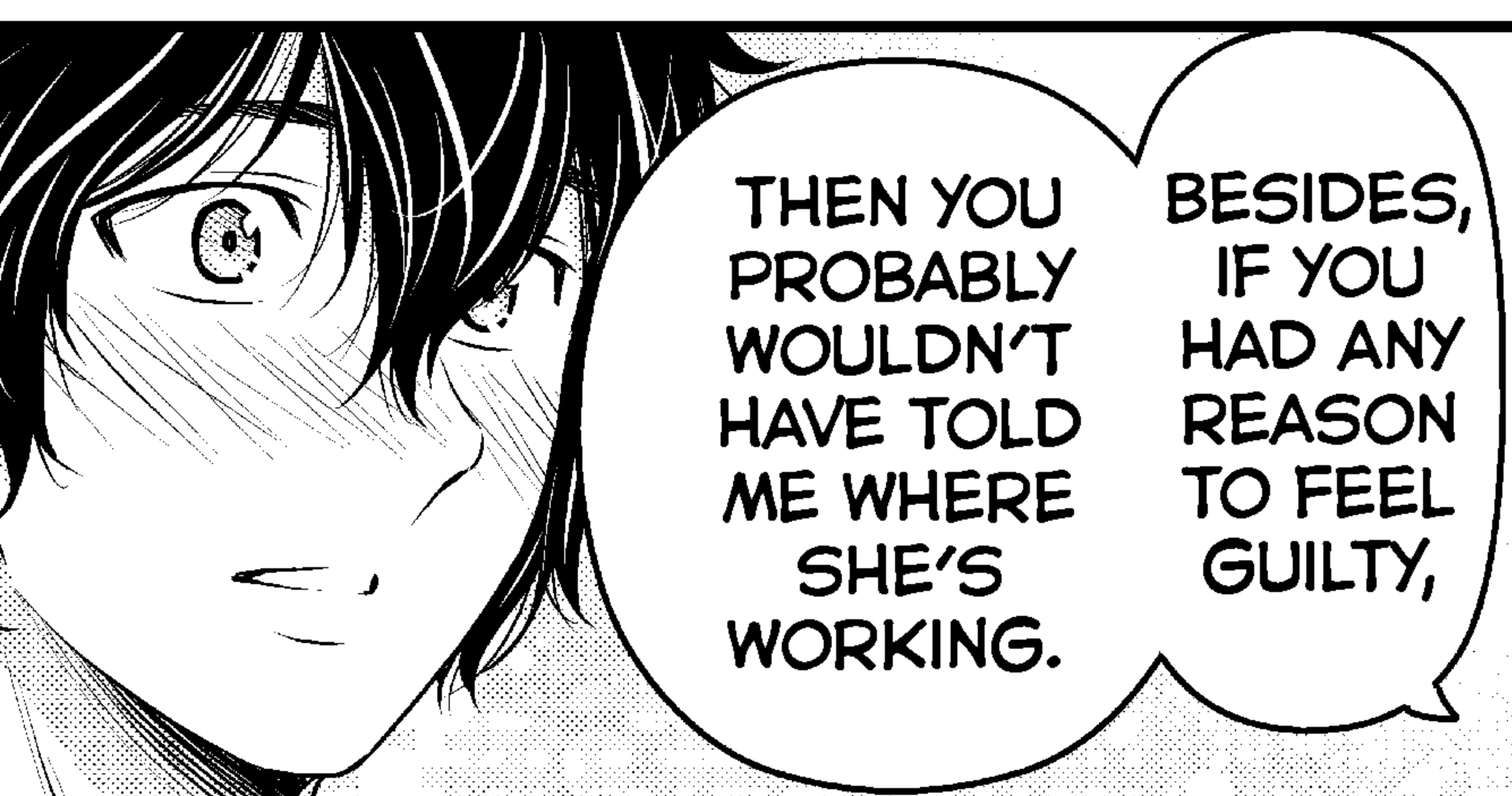


YEAH, WHY?

IS THAT ALL SHE SAID?

OH ...

NO REASON ...



THEN YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ME WHERE SHE'S WORKING.

BESIDES, IF YOU HAD ANY REASON TO FEEL GUILTY,



I CAN'T THINK OF DOING IT WITH ANYONE BUT YOU NOW...

HONESTLY,

CAN WE?



I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HOME YET.

SURE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS?



JUST KID-DING!

I TRUST YOU.

I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AFTER ALL.

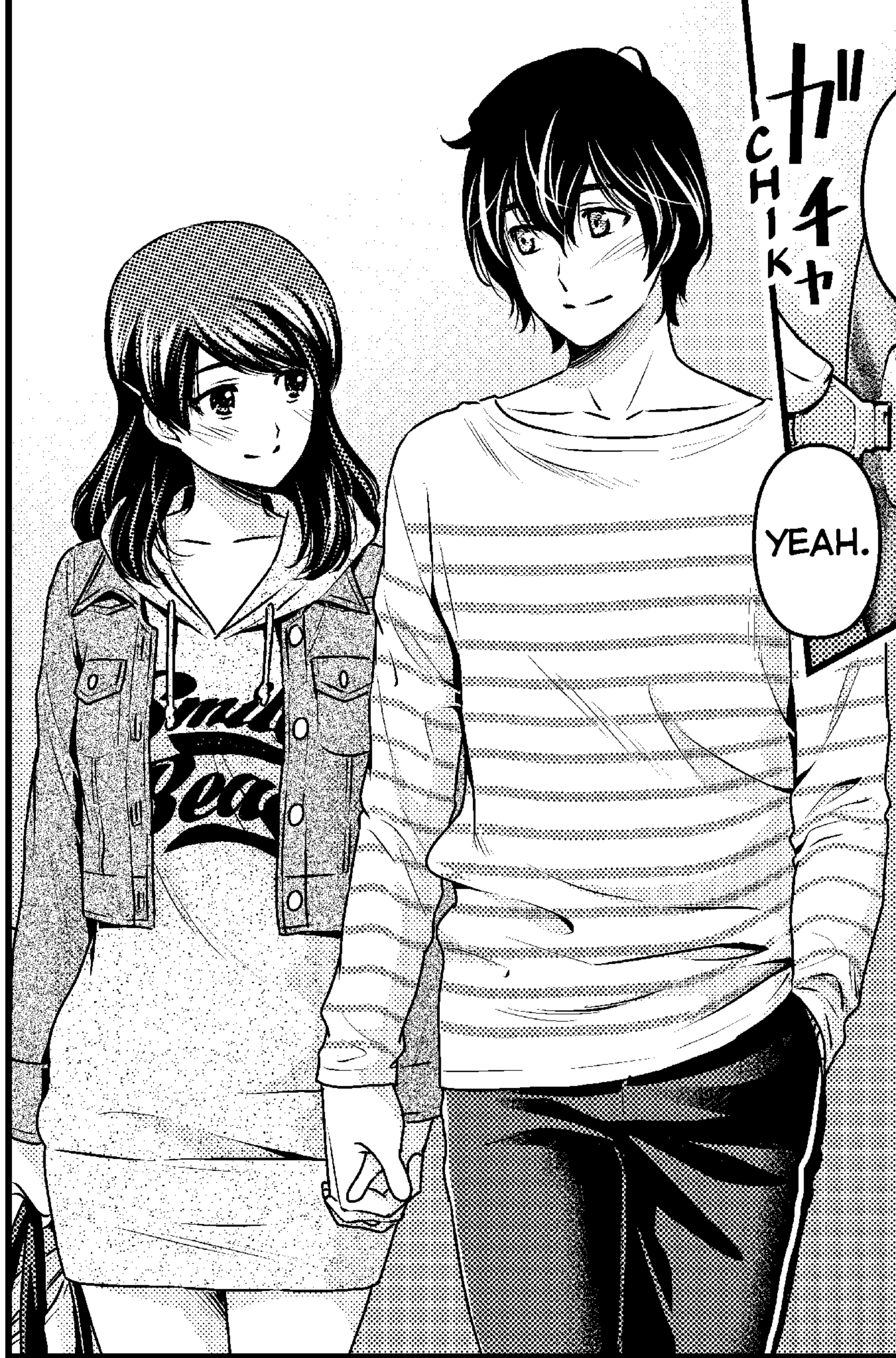




NEXT WEDNESDAY, I THINK.

WHEN'S YOUR NEXT DAY OFF?

ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT ON TUESDAY, THEN?

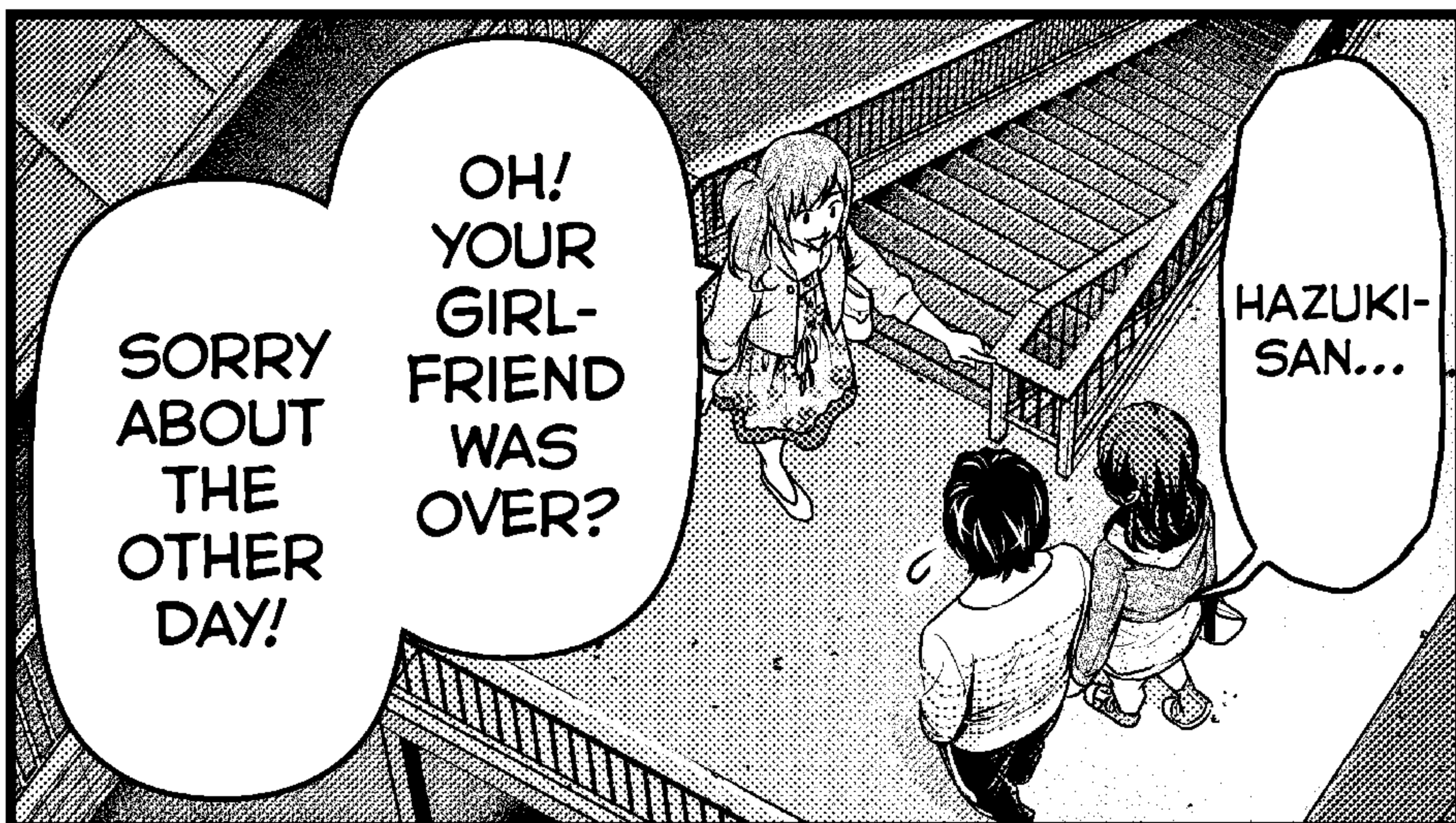


YEAH.

GOT EVERYTHING?

CHIKY

CHIKY



SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY!

OH! YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS OVER?

HAZUKI-SAN...



IT'S NOT REALLY A SAFE INVESTMENT TRYING TO STEAL HIM UNLESS HE MAKES IT BIG SOMEDAY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME!

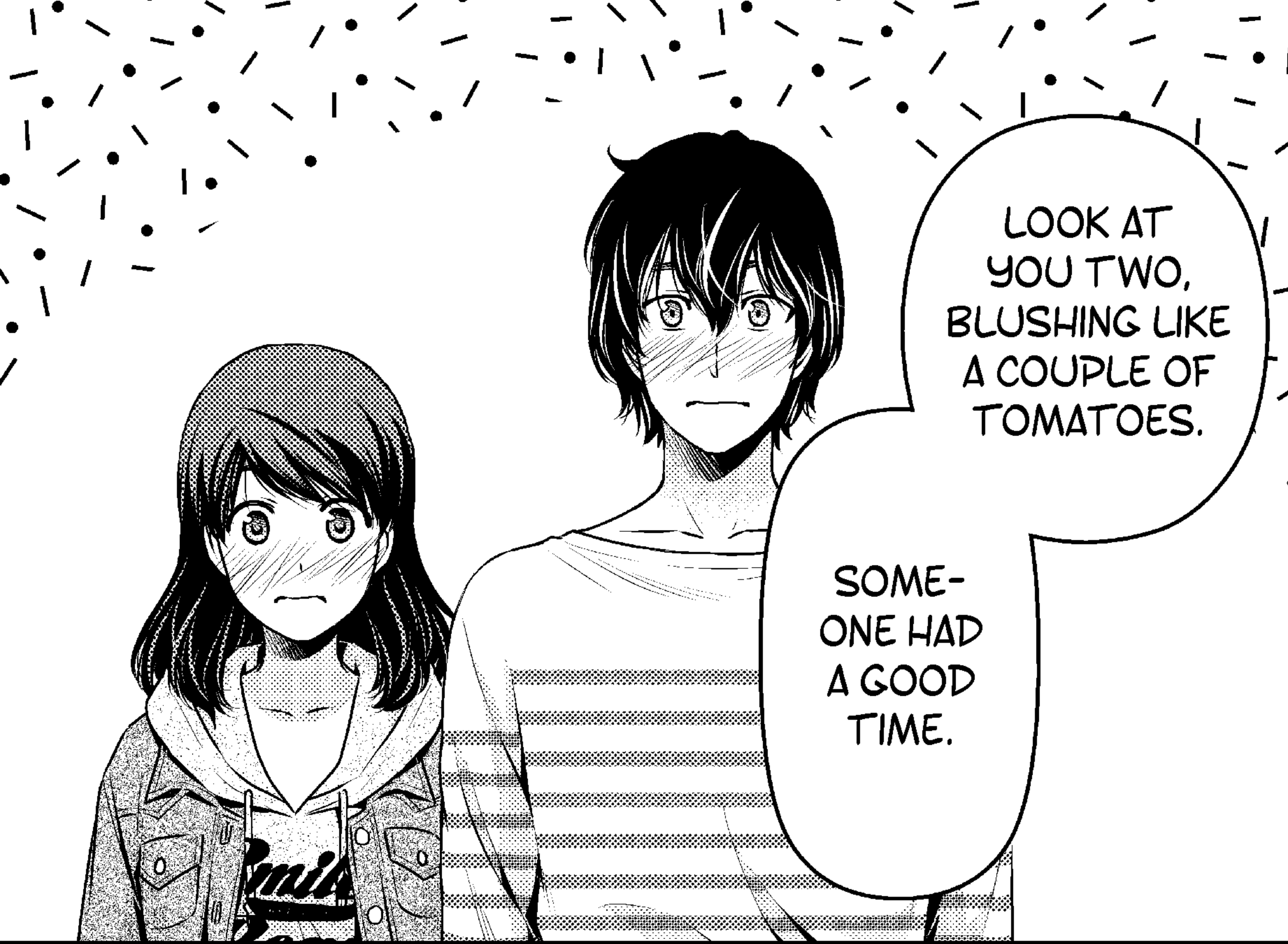
I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS ALREADY TAKEN.

INVESTMENT?



AH...





LOOK AT YOU TWO, BLUSHING LIKE A COUPLE OF TOMATOES.

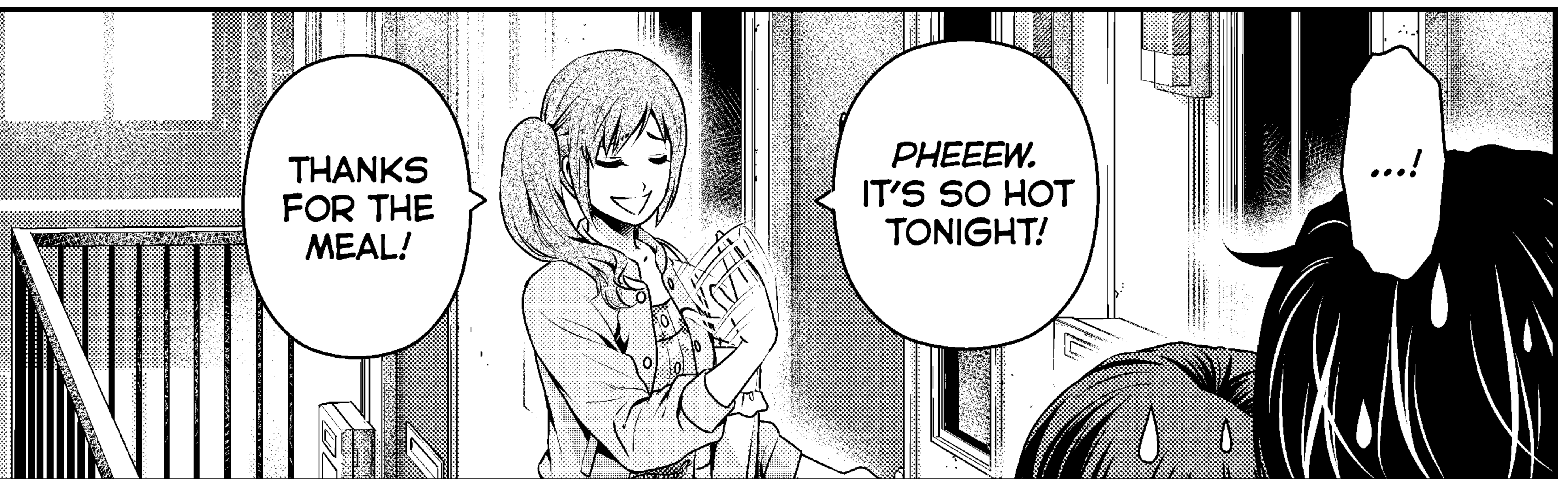
SOME-ONE HAD A GOOD TIME.



YEAH.

ARE YOU WALKING HER HOME?

THAT'S NICE.



THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

PHEEW. IT'S SO HOT TONIGHT!

...!



IT SHOULD GO AWAY BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME...

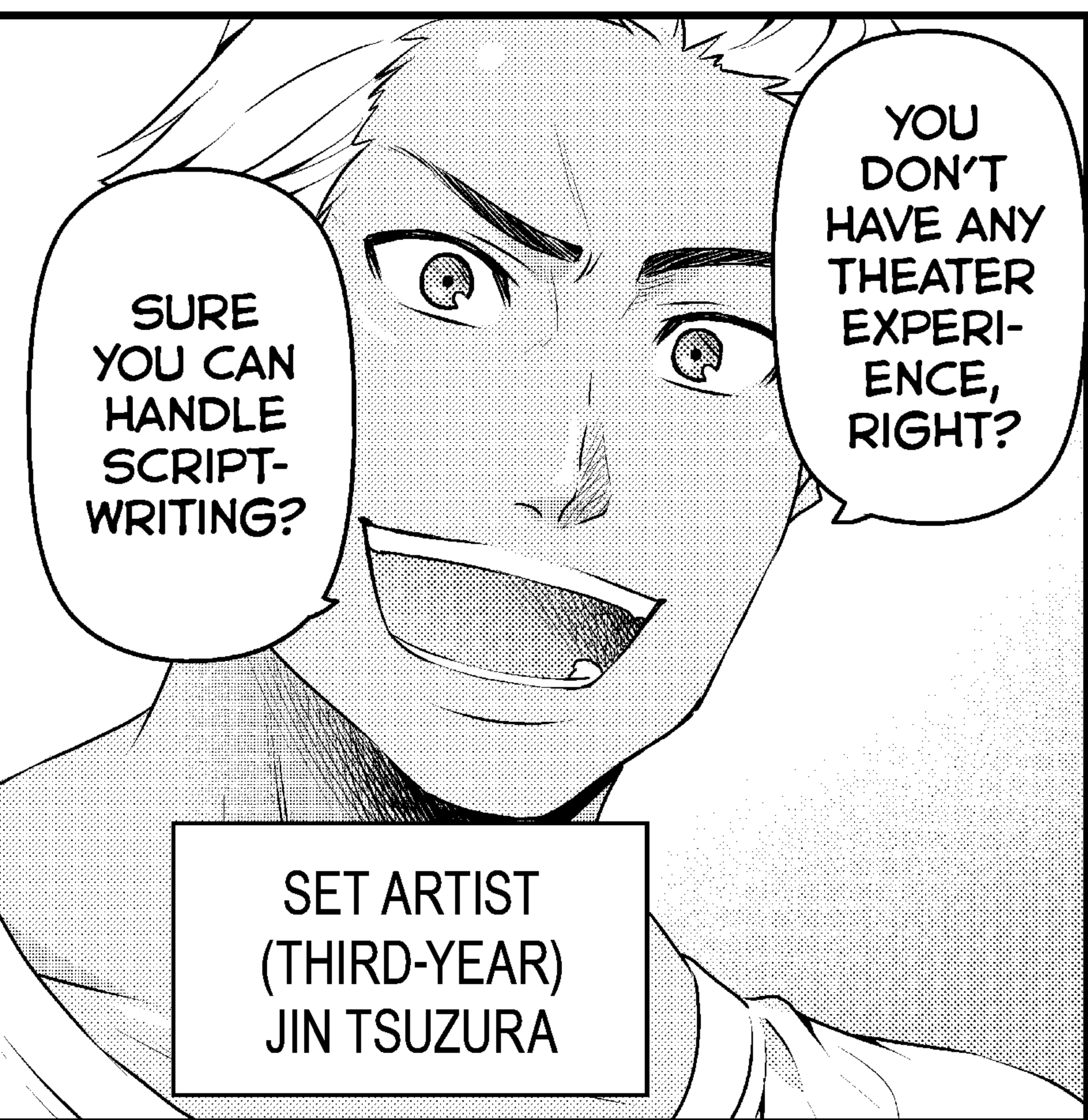
M-  
MAYBE I SHOULD COVER UP WITH SOME MAKEUP.











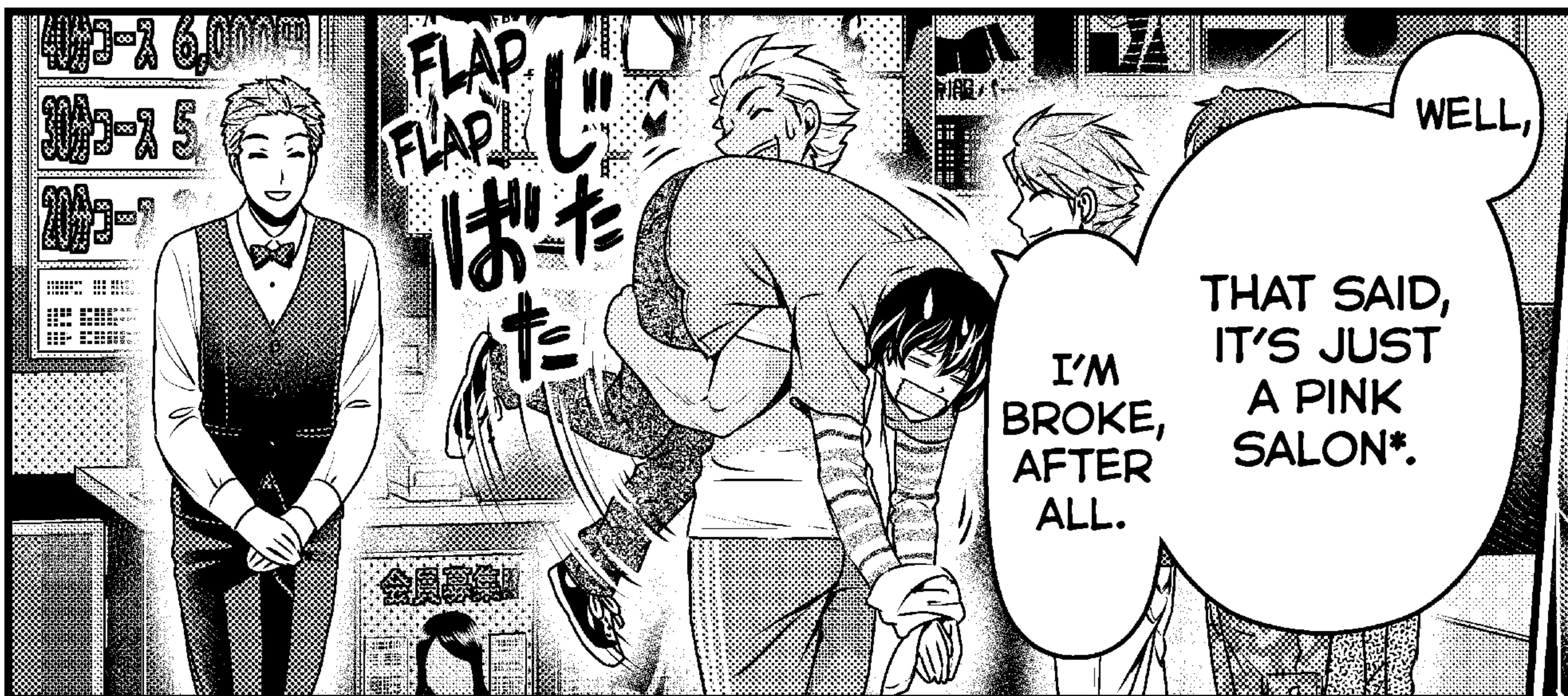
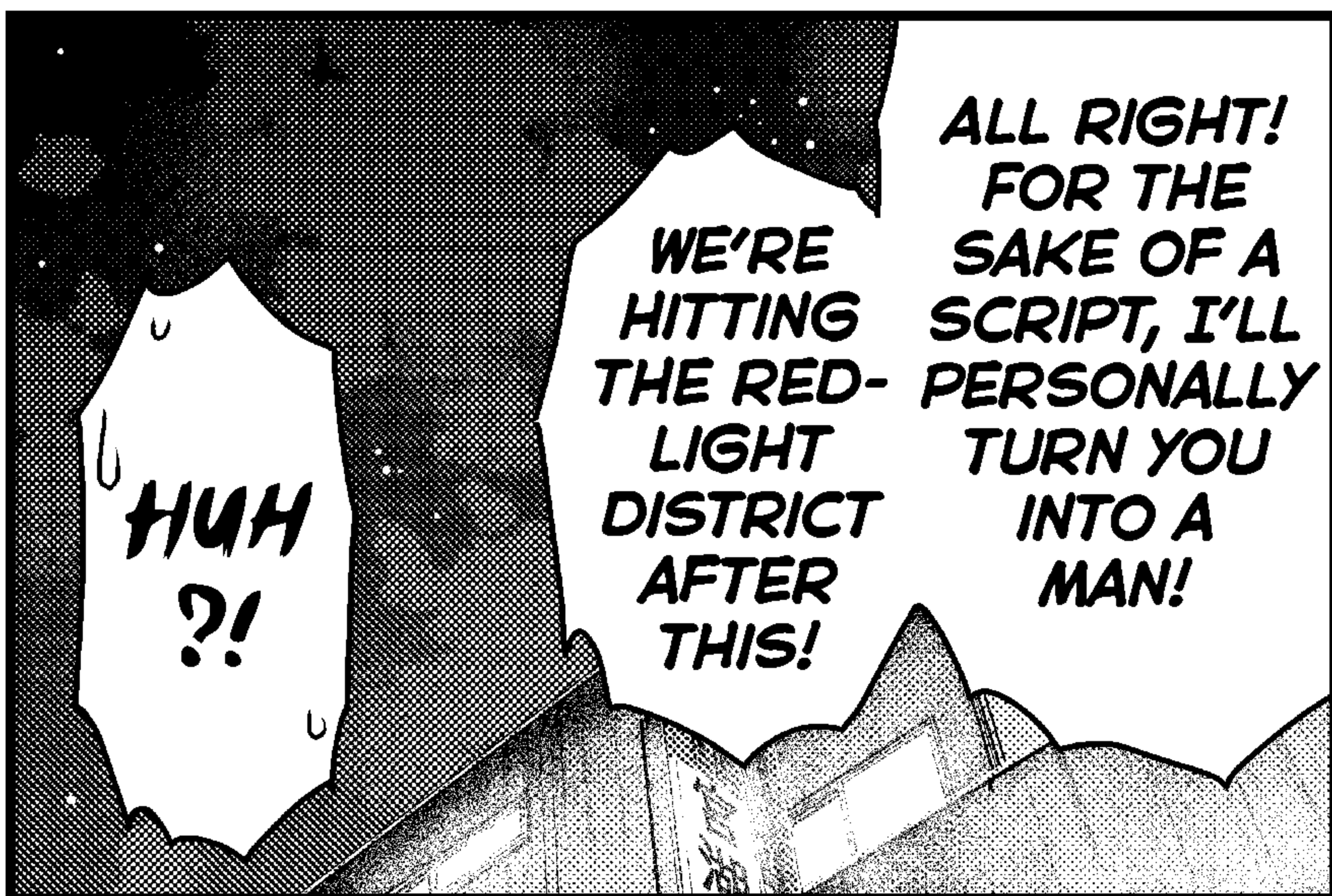
SET ARTIST  
(THIRD-YEAR)  
JIN TSUZURA



ACTOR  
(SECOND-YEAR)  
IBUKI MIZUSAWA



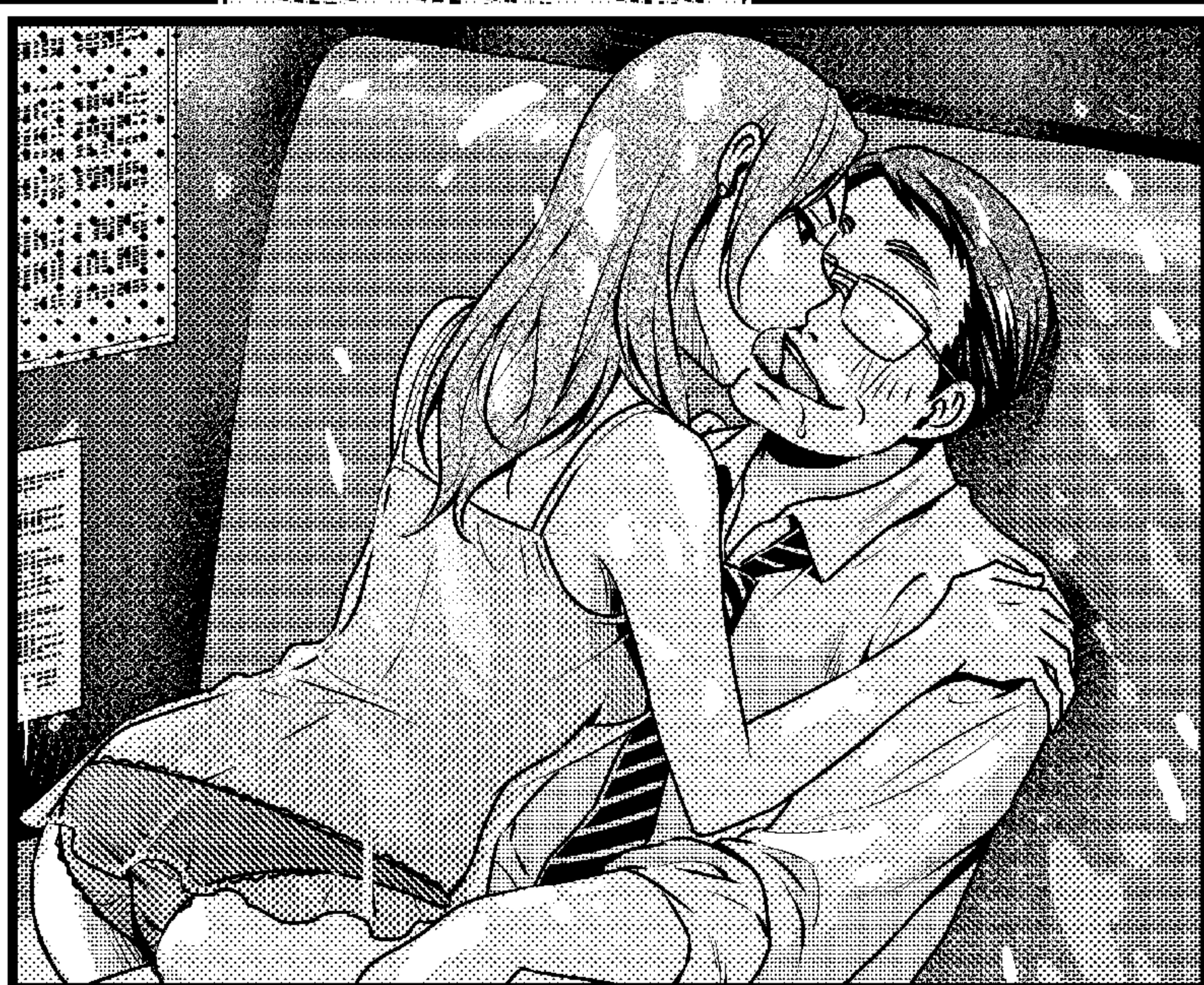




\*PINK SALON: A TYPE OF BROTHEL IN JAPAN WHICH SPECIALIZES IN NON-PENETRATIVE SEXUAL SERVICES.











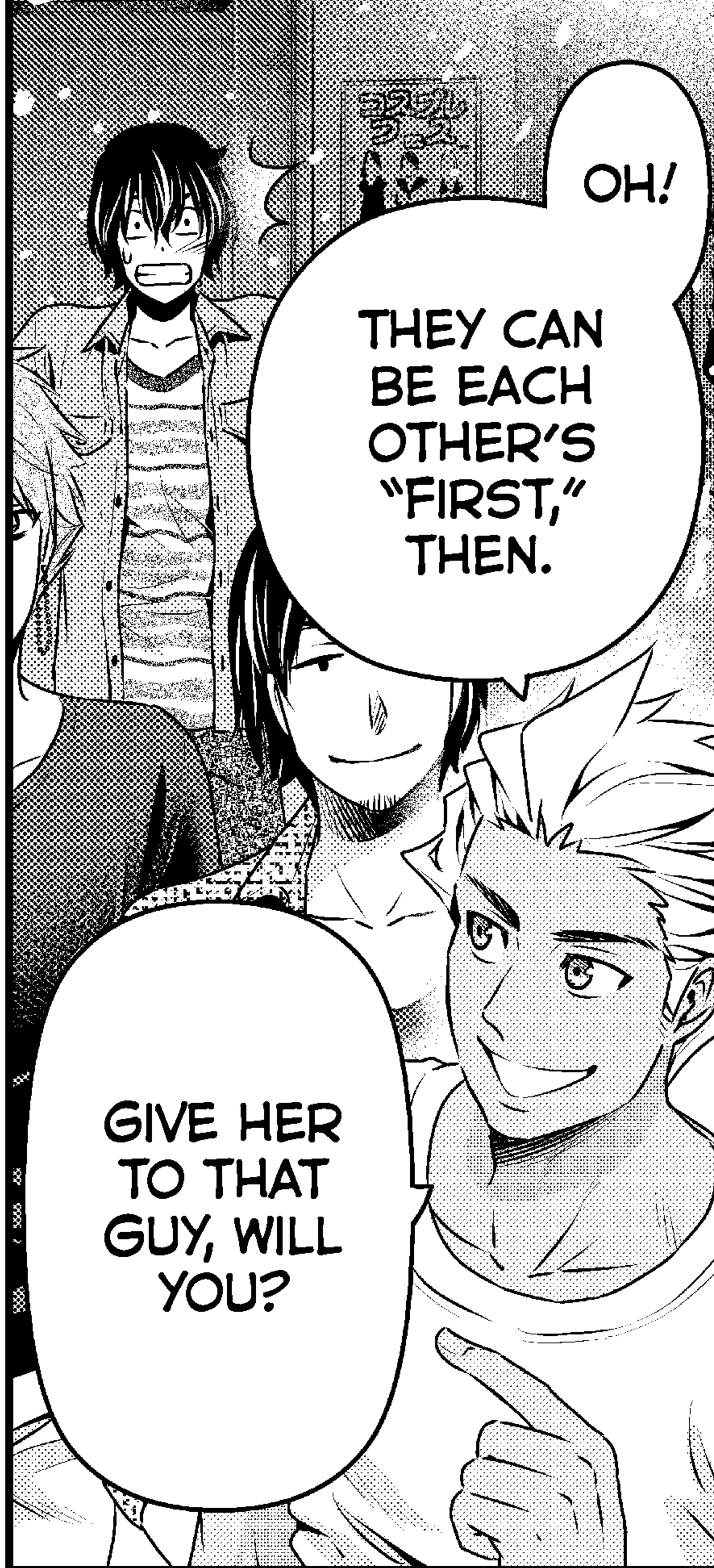
WELL, I  
MEAN, IT'S  
JUST A  
BROTHEL...

OH,  
SHIT.  
OHHH,  
SHIT.

WAIT,  
NO,  
NO,  
NO,  
NO!



EXCUSE  
ME!



OH!

THEY CAN  
BE EACH  
OTHER'S  
"FIRST,"  
THEN.

GIVE HER  
TO THAT  
GUY, WILL  
YOU?



...!

WE JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO GET A  
NEW GIRL  
TODAY.



HUH  
...?

FUJII-  
KUN?

新企画  
CANDY CANDY  
感謝  
遊安DAYが始まる...  
【長期間遊安】がついに誕生  
2/



## CHAPTER 143: MONEY AND GREED

CHASE  
THE WHITE  
DRAGON!

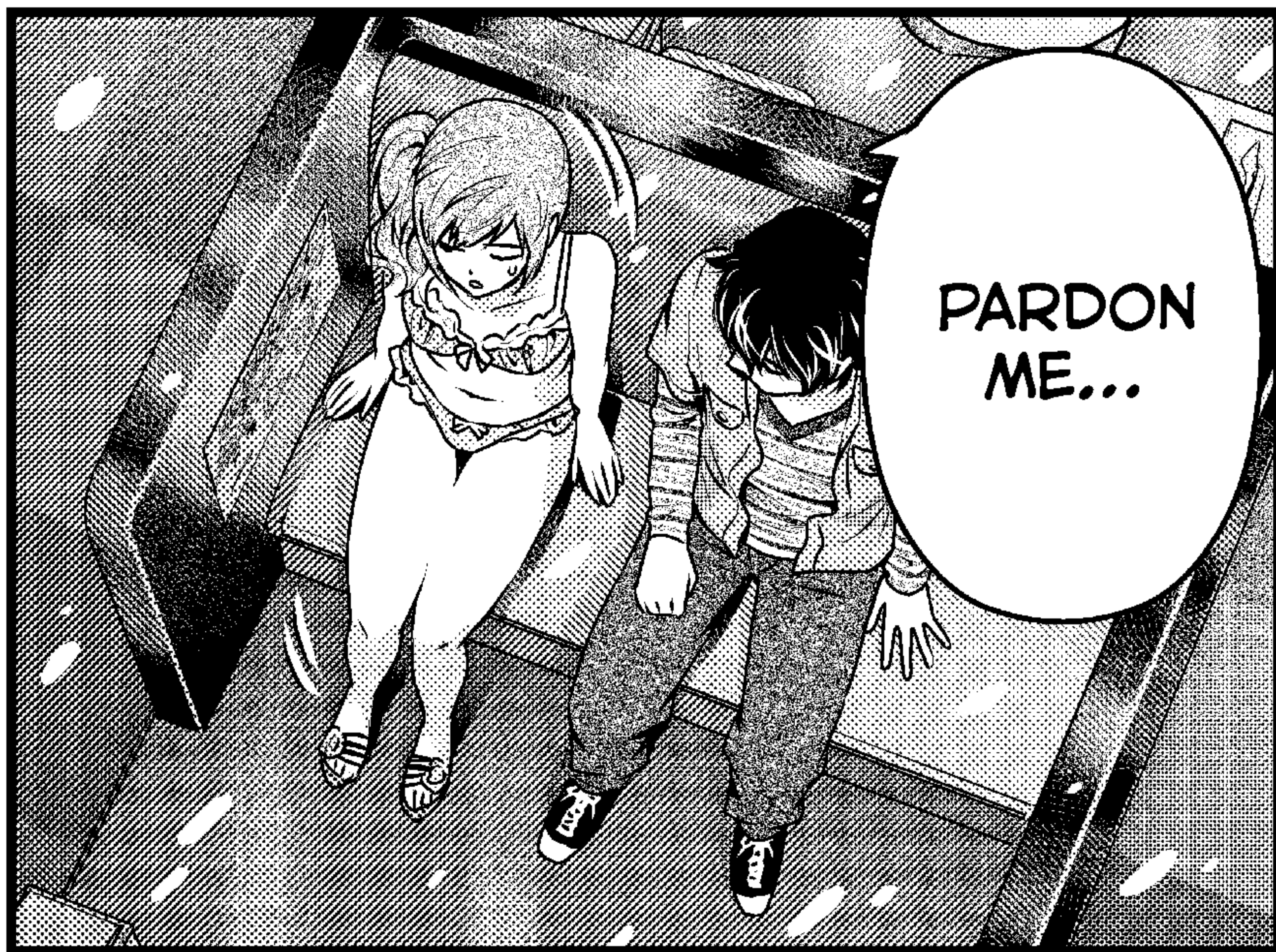
GROPE AND  
BE GROPED,  
SUCK AND  
BE SUCKED!

WELCOME,  
WELCOME!

ALLLL  
RIGHT,  
NUMBER 7,  
NUMBER 8!  
YOUR  
GIRLS ARE  
COMING!

LET'S SEE  
SOME  
HUSTLE  
OUT THERE  
TONIGHT!









NUH-UH!  
I'LL BE  
BETRAYING  
RUI IF I  
DO THAT!

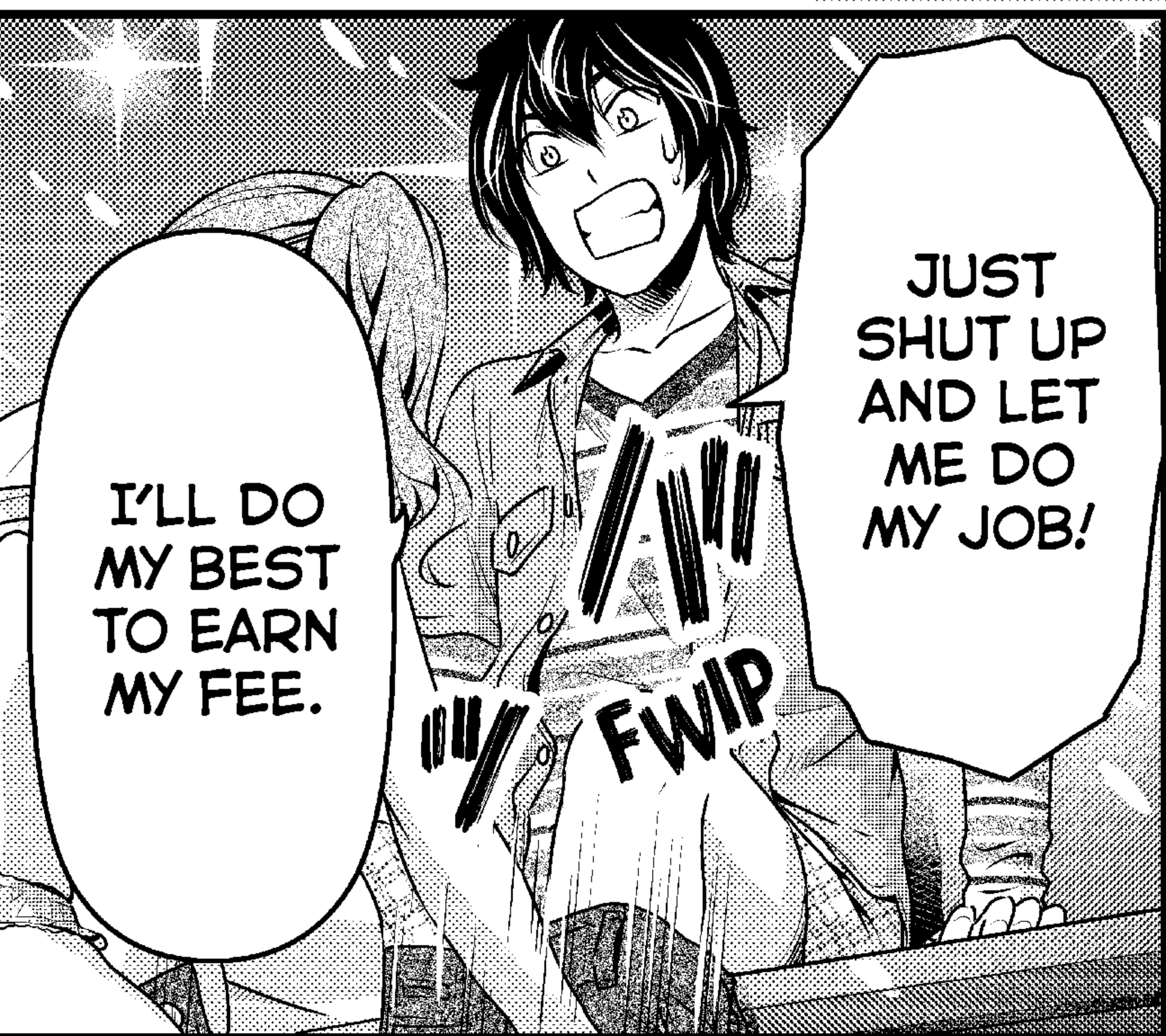
WHOA,  
WHOA!  
WAIT!

HUH  
?!

I'M  
PRETTY  
SURE YOU  
ALREADY  
ARE JUST  
BY COMING  
HERE!

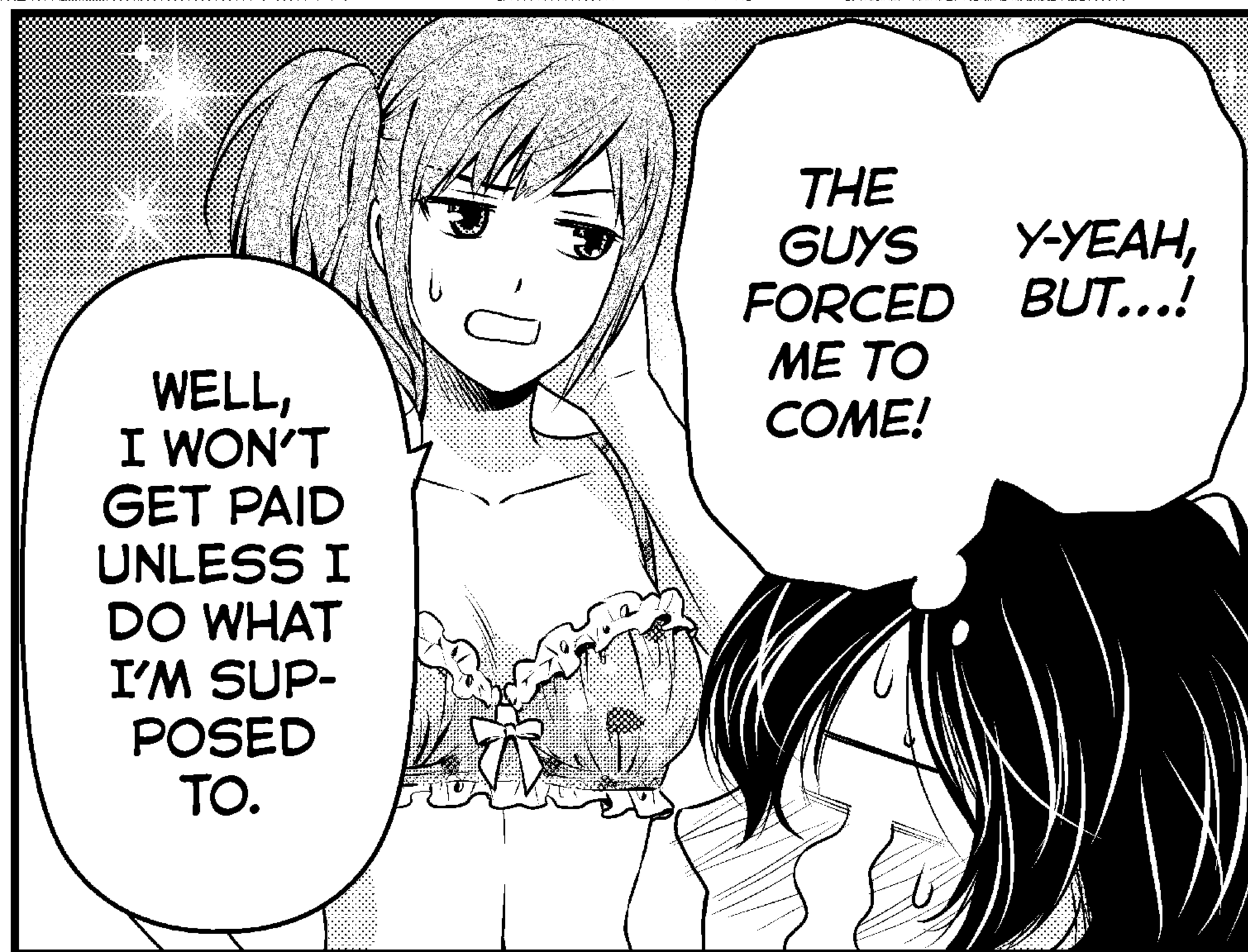


WE'LL  
START  
WITH  
KISSING  
...



I'LL DO  
MY BEST  
TO EARN  
MY FEE.

JUST  
SHUT UP  
AND LET  
ME DO  
MY JOB!



WELL,  
I WON'T  
GET PAID  
UNLESS I  
DO WHAT  
I'M SUP-  
POSED  
TO.

THE  
GUYS  
FORCED  
ME TO  
COME!

Y-YEAH,  
BUT...!

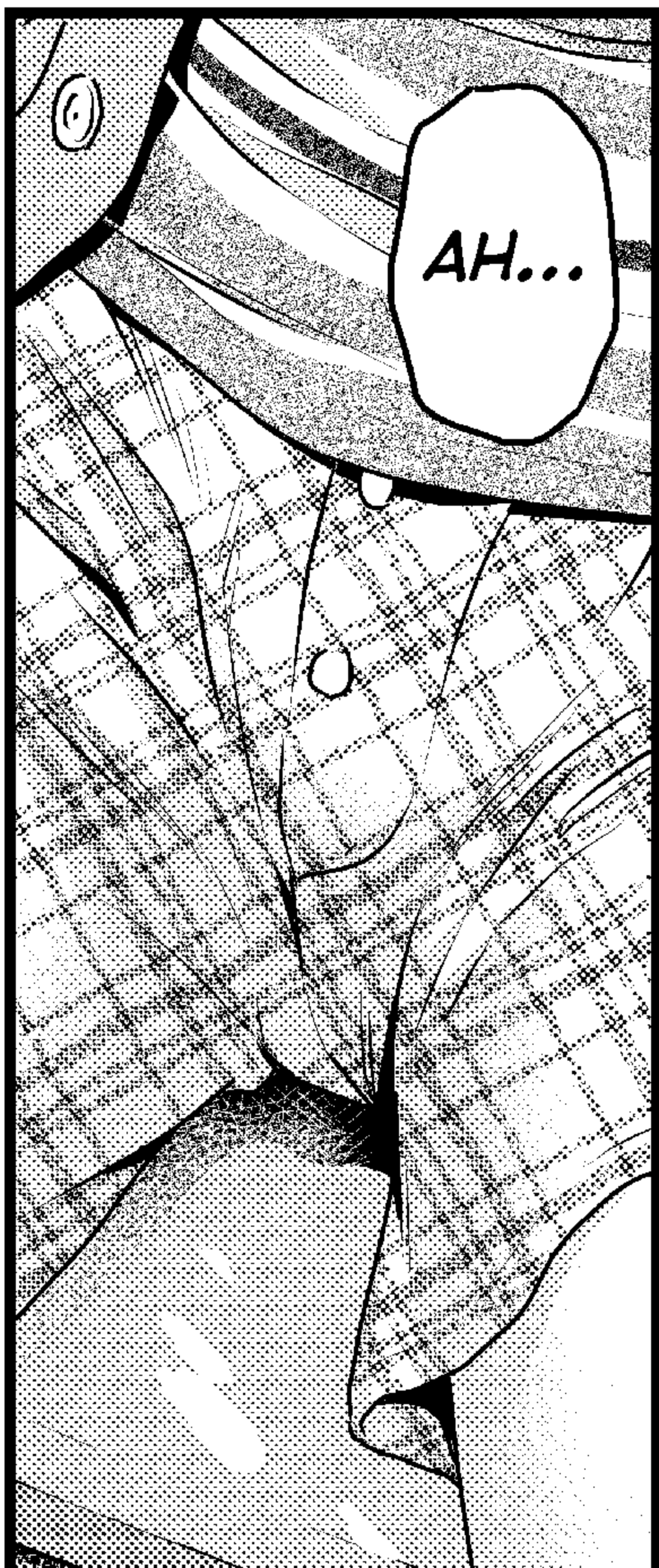
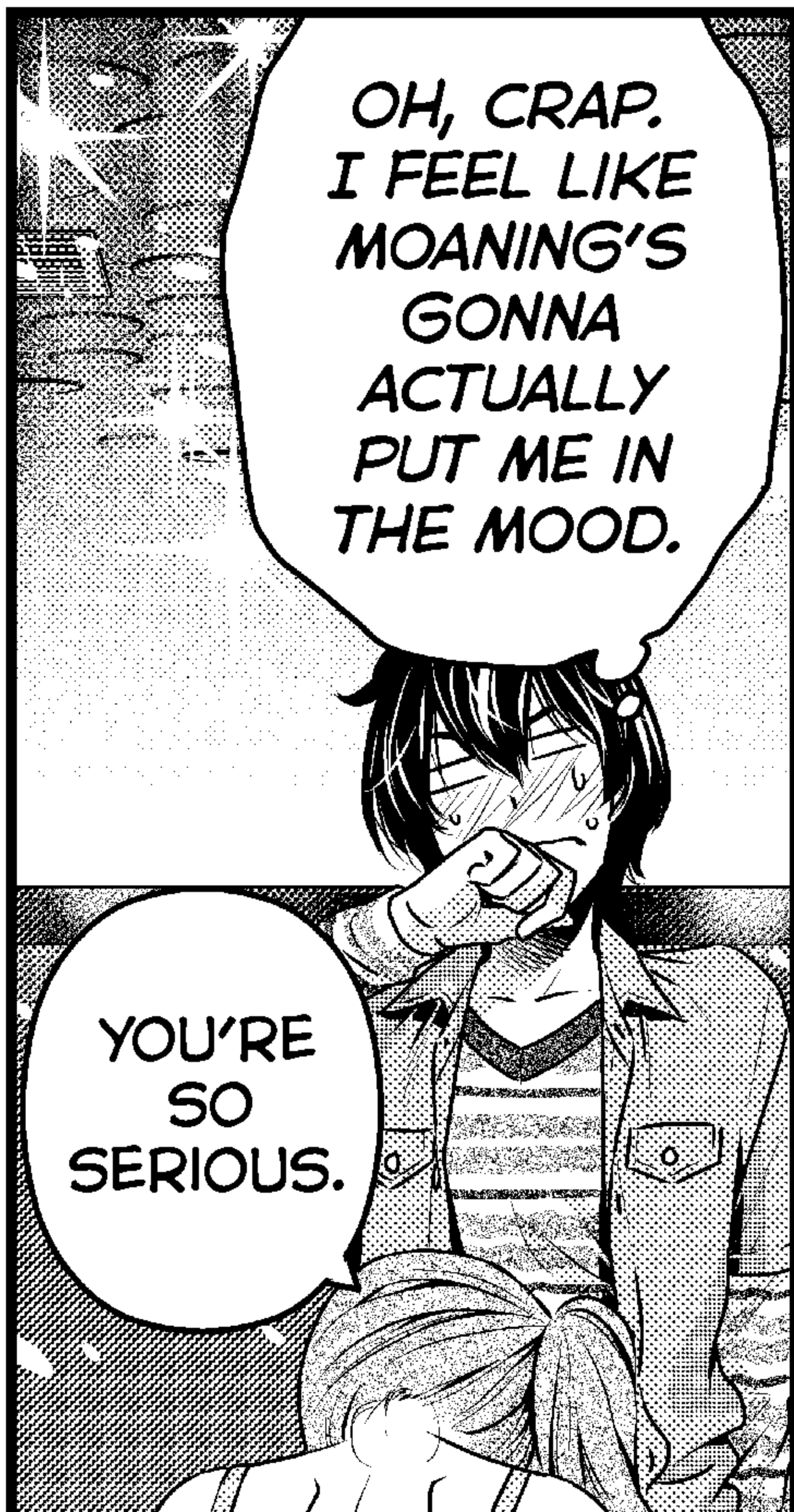
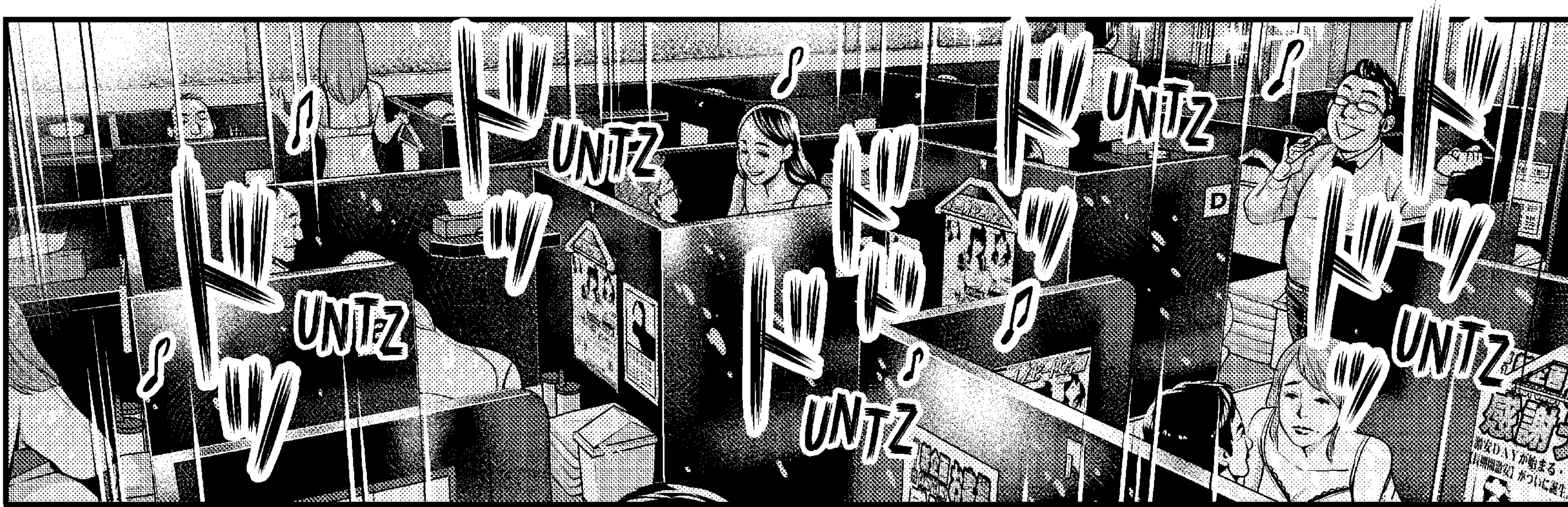


AT  
LEAST  
JUST  
PRETEND  
TO DO  
IT!

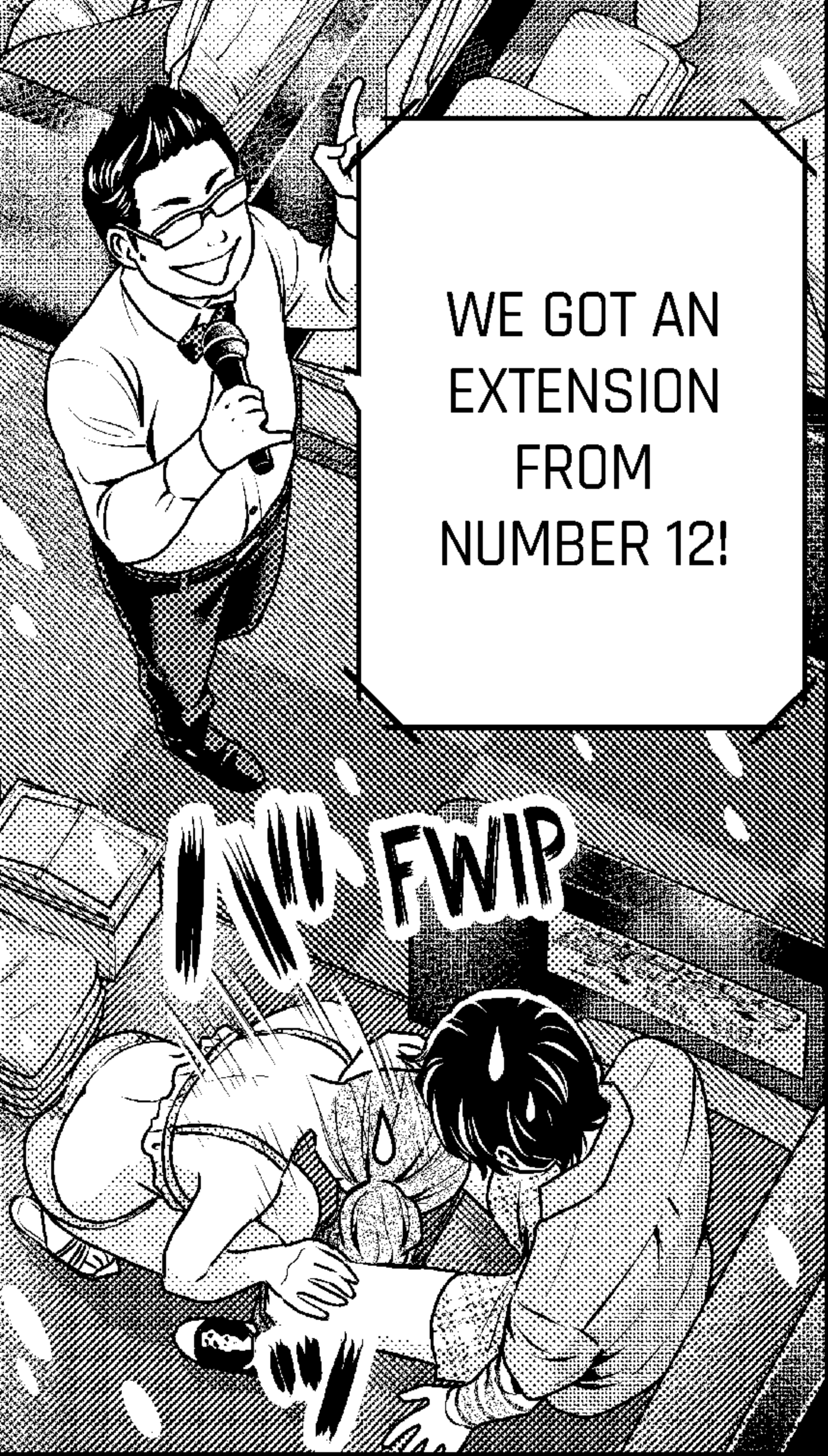
PRE-  
TEND!

HANG  
ON!









WE GOT AN  
EXTENSION  
FROM  
NUMBER 12!



I JUST  
FEEL BAD  
FOR RUI.

NO, NOT  
REALLY.

AND  
...



OR WHAT, ARE  
YOU ONE OF  
THOSE GUYS  
WHO THINKS  
THESE  
PLACES ARE  
DISGUSTING?

I WON'T  
SNITCH  
ON YOU  
TO YOUR  
GIRL-  
FRIEND  
OR ANY-  
THING.



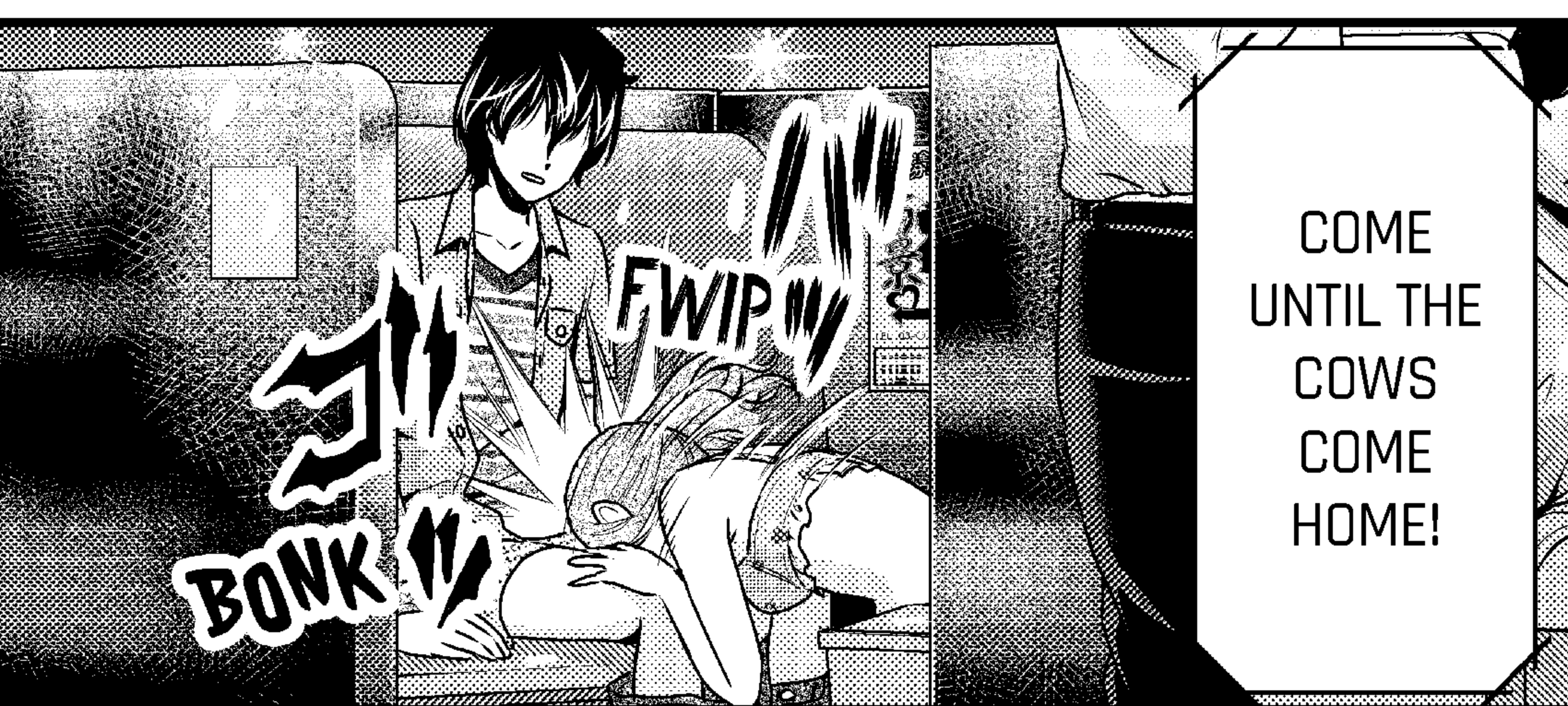
I FEEL  
KINDA  
BAD FOR  
YOU, TOO,  
HAZUKI-  
SAN.

OH,  
AND...



AND  
WHAT  
?

YOU  
HAVE IT  
ROUGH  
...



COME  
UNTIL THE  
COWS  
COME  
HOME!



ATTENTION,  
LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN.  
NUMBERS 6  
THROUGH 10  
HAVE ONLY  
FIVE MINUTES  
OF HAPPY  
TIME LEFT!

SORRY!  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
HEADBUTT  
YOU...



HUH  
?

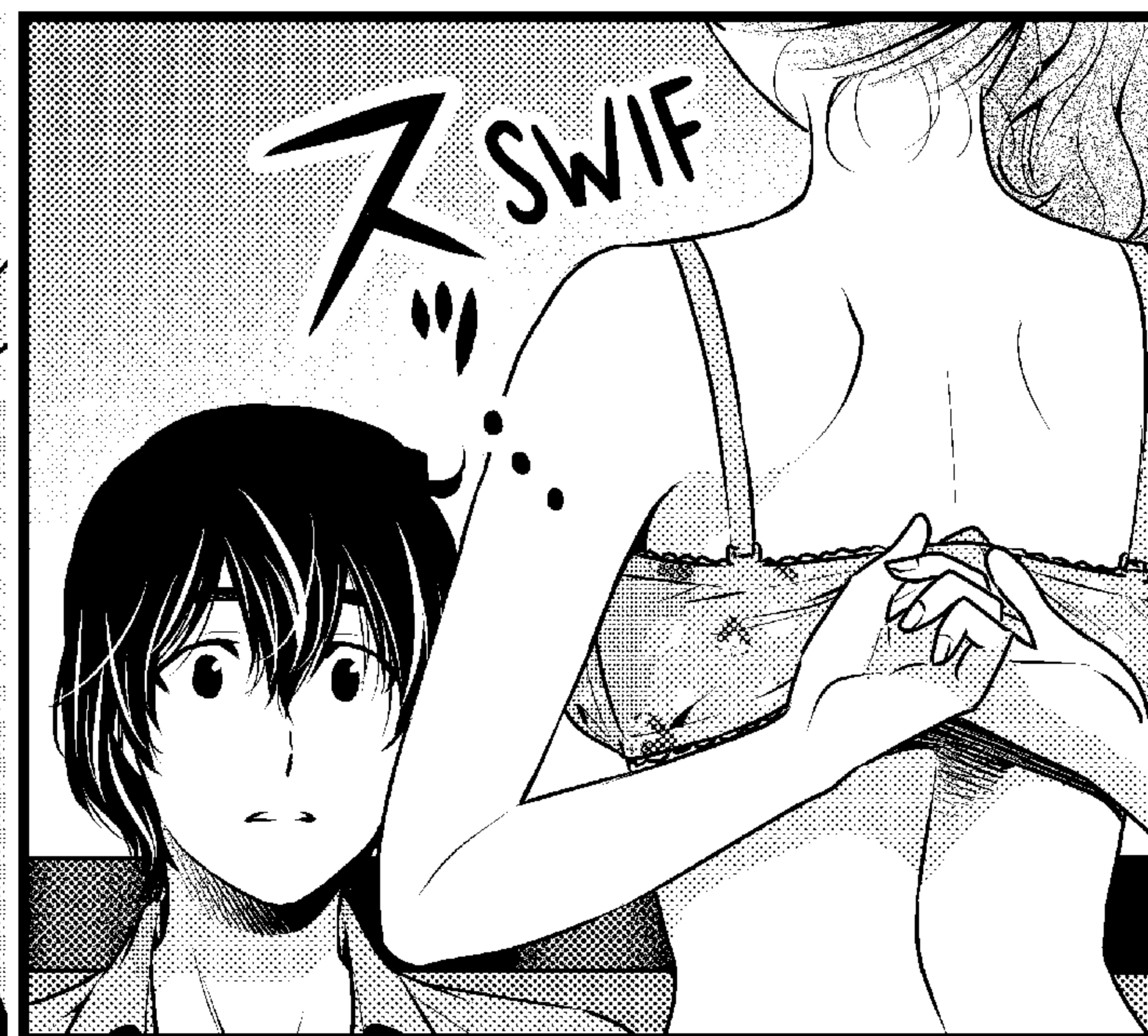
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN  
BY...

COME ON,  
COME ON!





COME ON,  
GIRLS! LET'S  
SHOW THOSE  
CUSTOMERS  
A GOOD TIME!



SWIF



WHETHER  
YOU LIKE  
BRAS  
OR BARE  
BOOBS,  
THE WORLD  
IS YOUR  
OYSTER!

THAT'S  
THE  
SPIRIT,  
SIR!

HEY  
...

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
PRETEND  
YOU HAVE  
AN UN-  
DERWEAR  
FETISH,  
TOO.



IT'S 100  
TIMES  
HOTTER  
WHEN  
THE GIRL  
LEAVES  
THEM  
ON!

OH,  
MAN!  
I JUST  
LOVE  
UNDER-  
WEAR!

ALL HAIL  
UNDER-  
WEAR!



FW  
IP





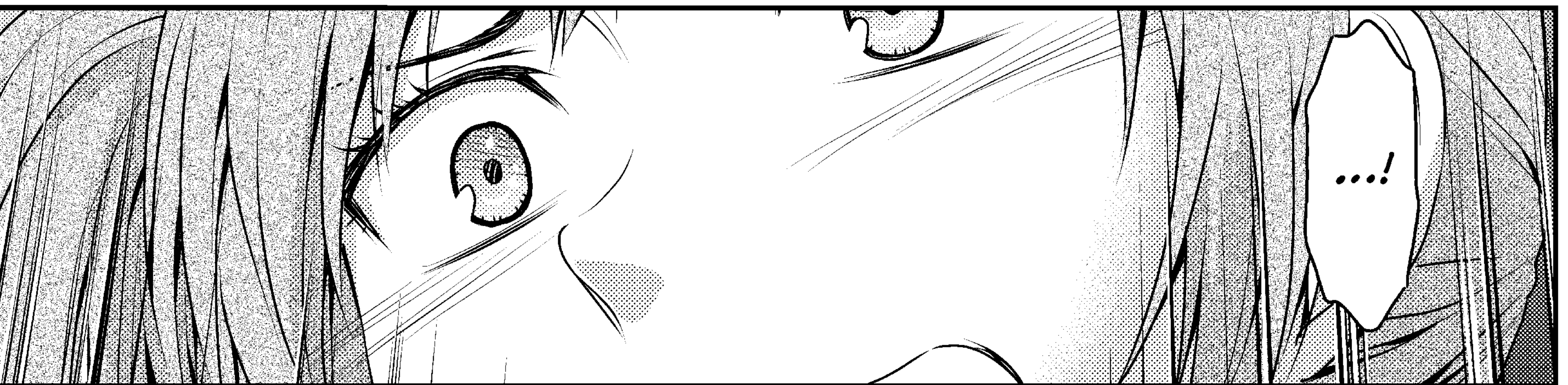
YOUR HANDS...

...HAVE BEEN SHAKING THE WHOLE TIME.



WELL, I MEAN,

YOU DON'T REALLY ...  
WANT TO DO THIS, DO YOU?



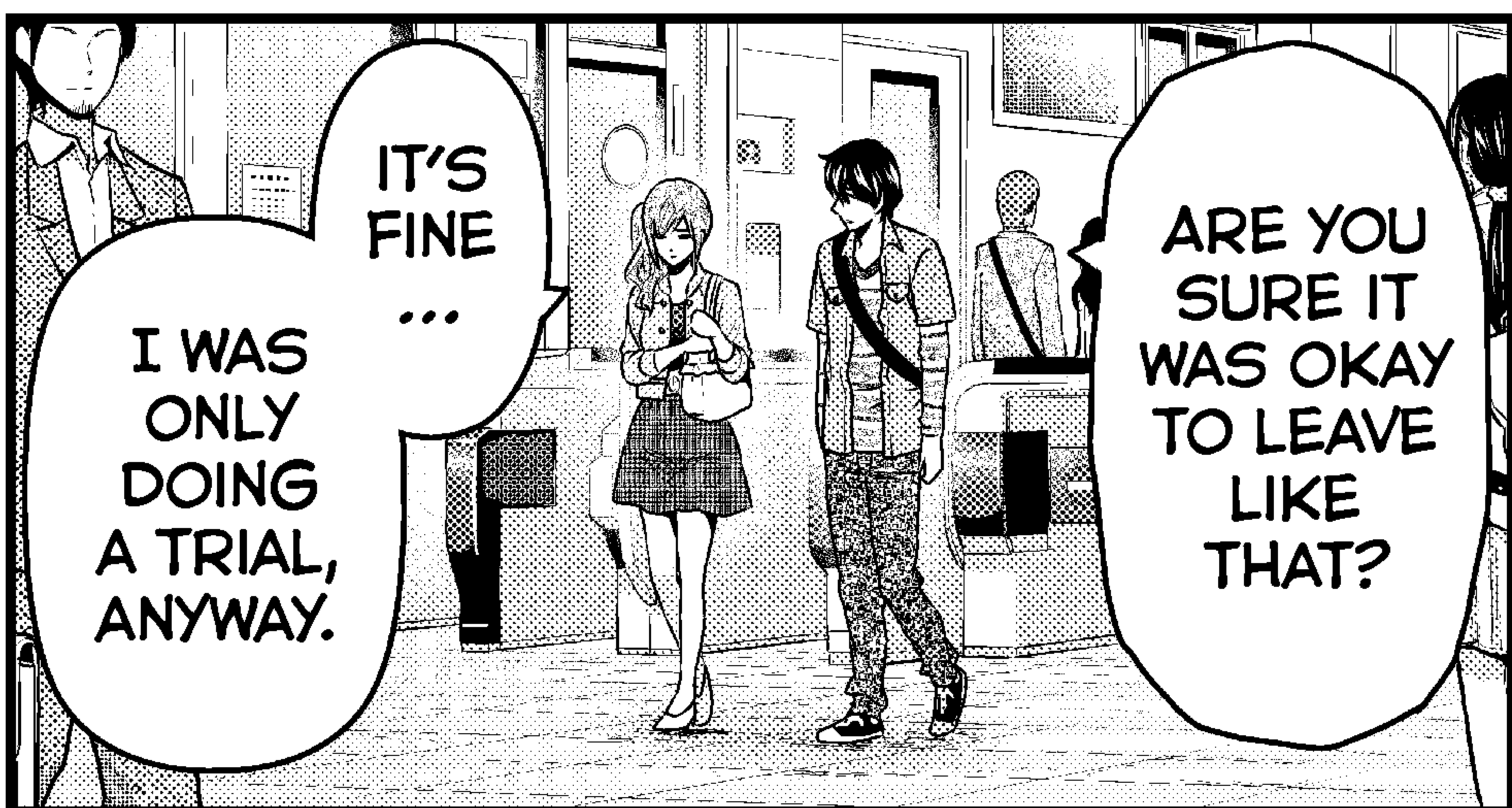
...!



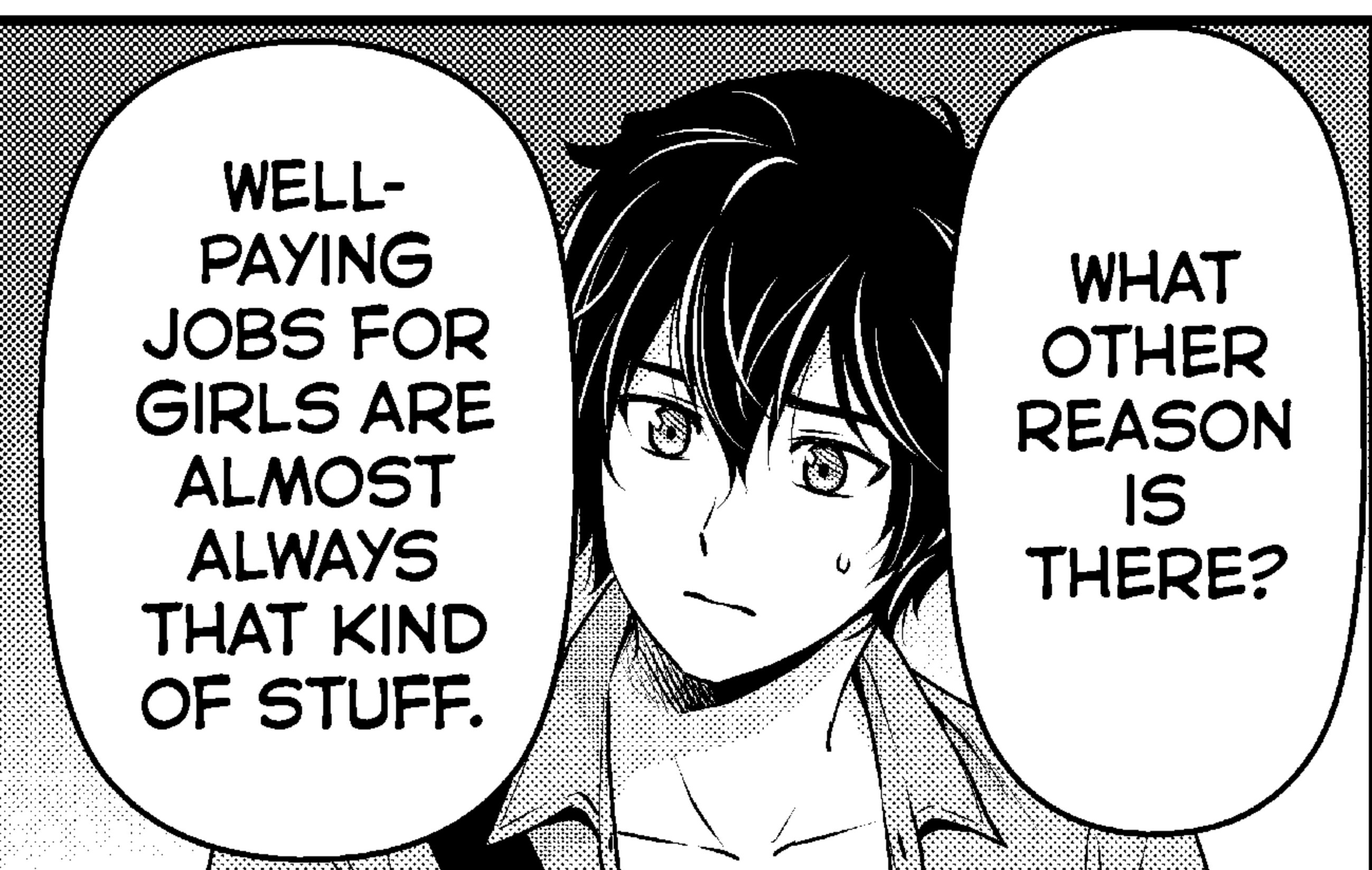
YOU'RE TRYING TO PLAY IT OFF LIKE IT'S NOTHING,

BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY SCARED, AREN'T YOU?

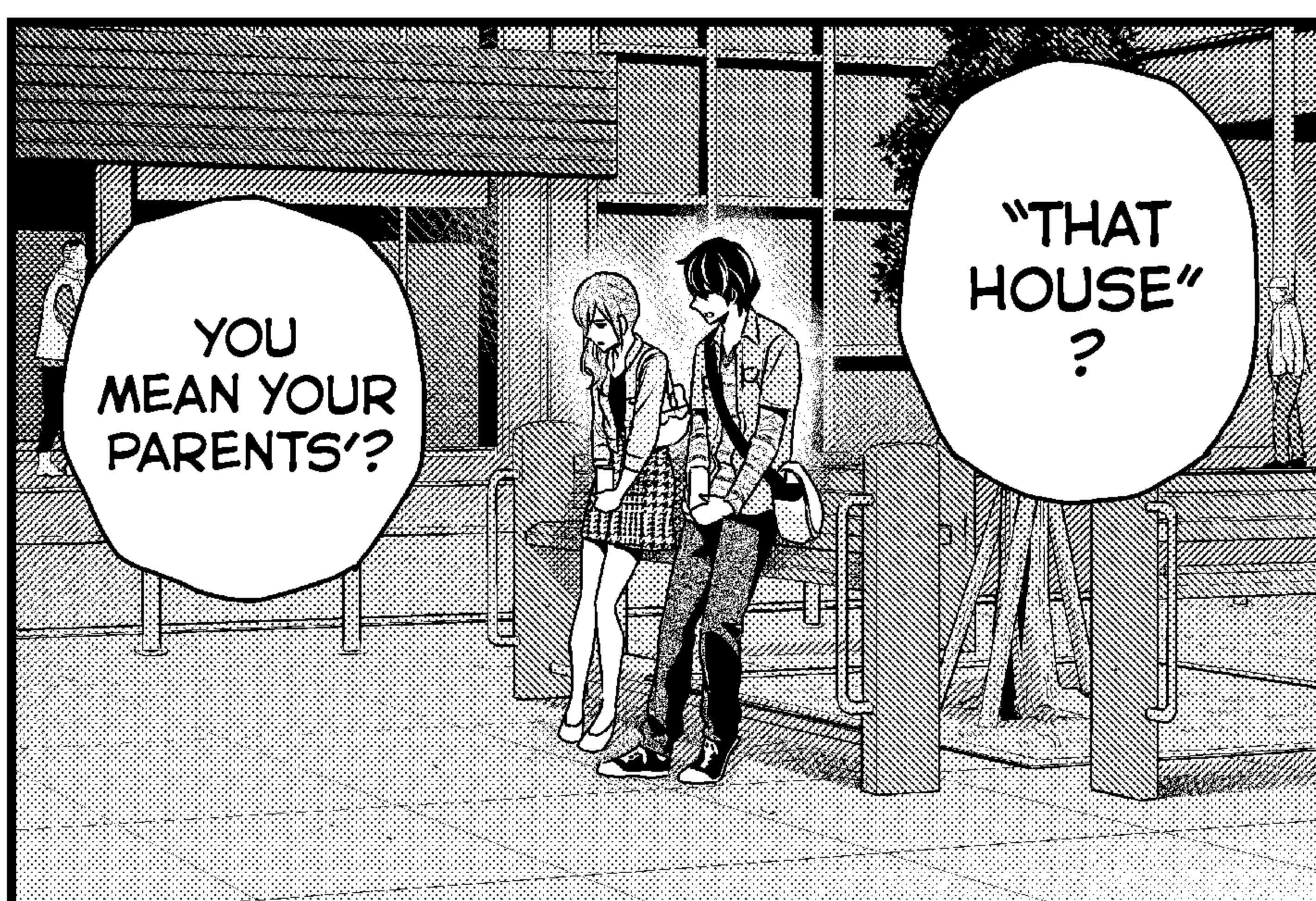
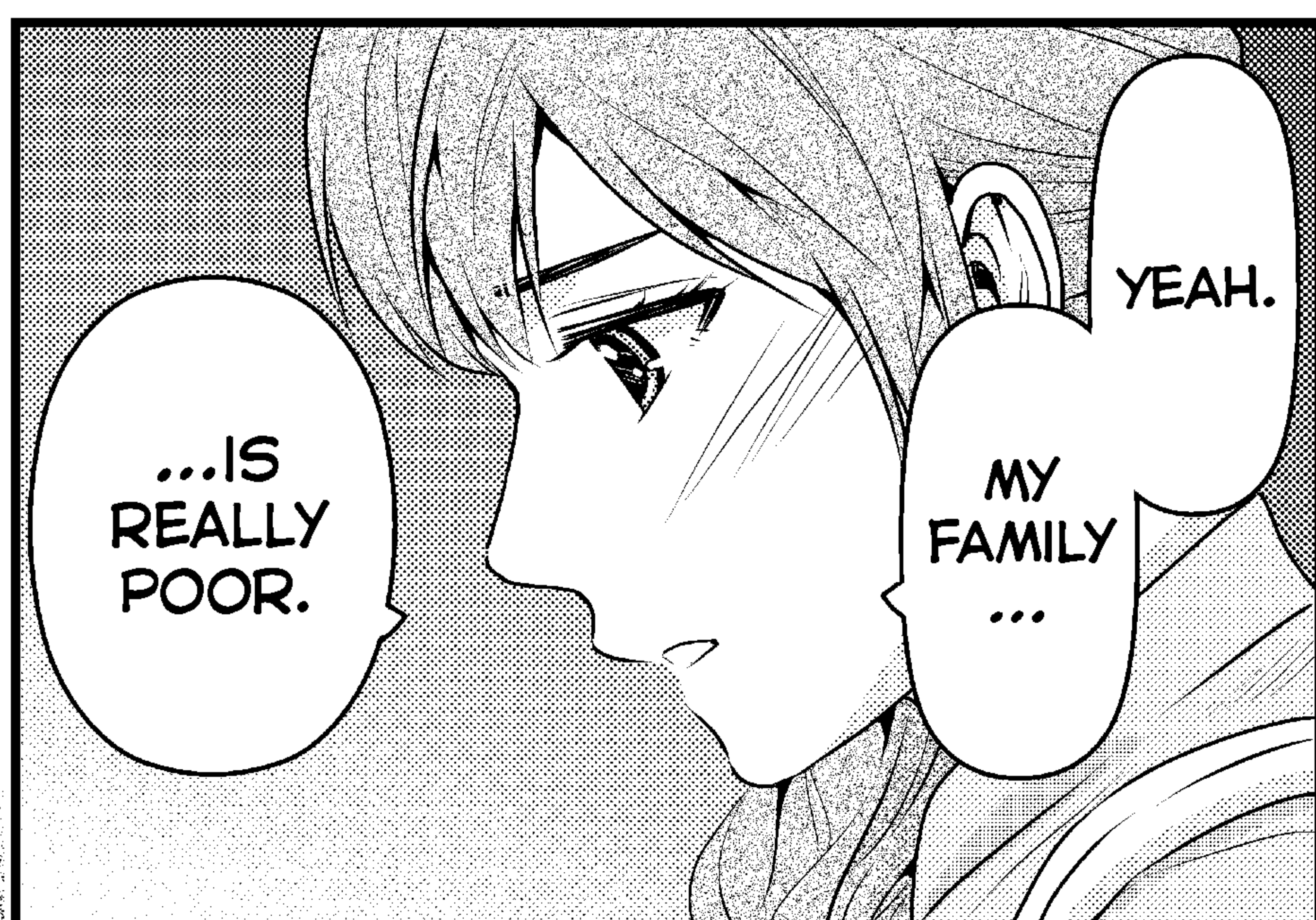




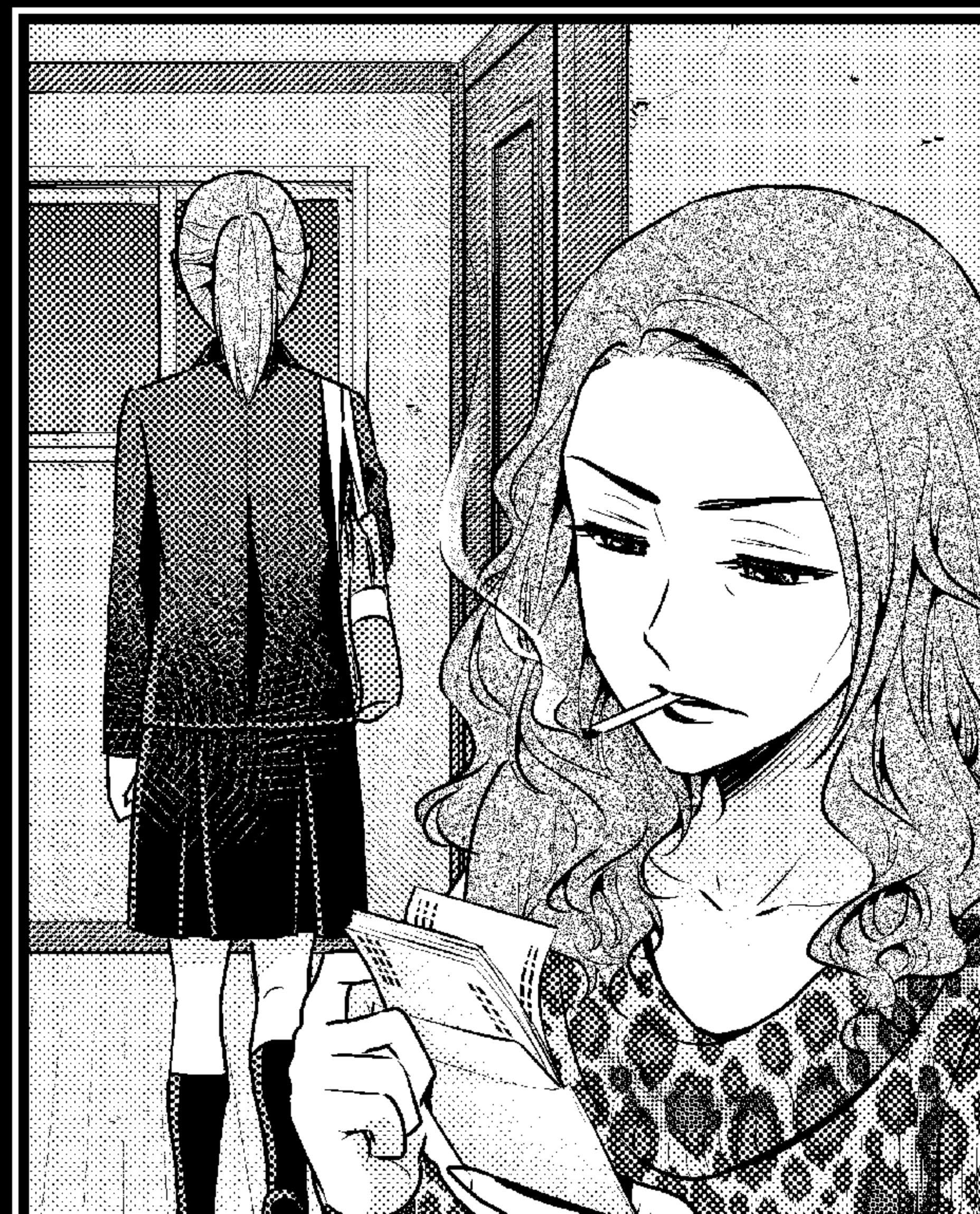
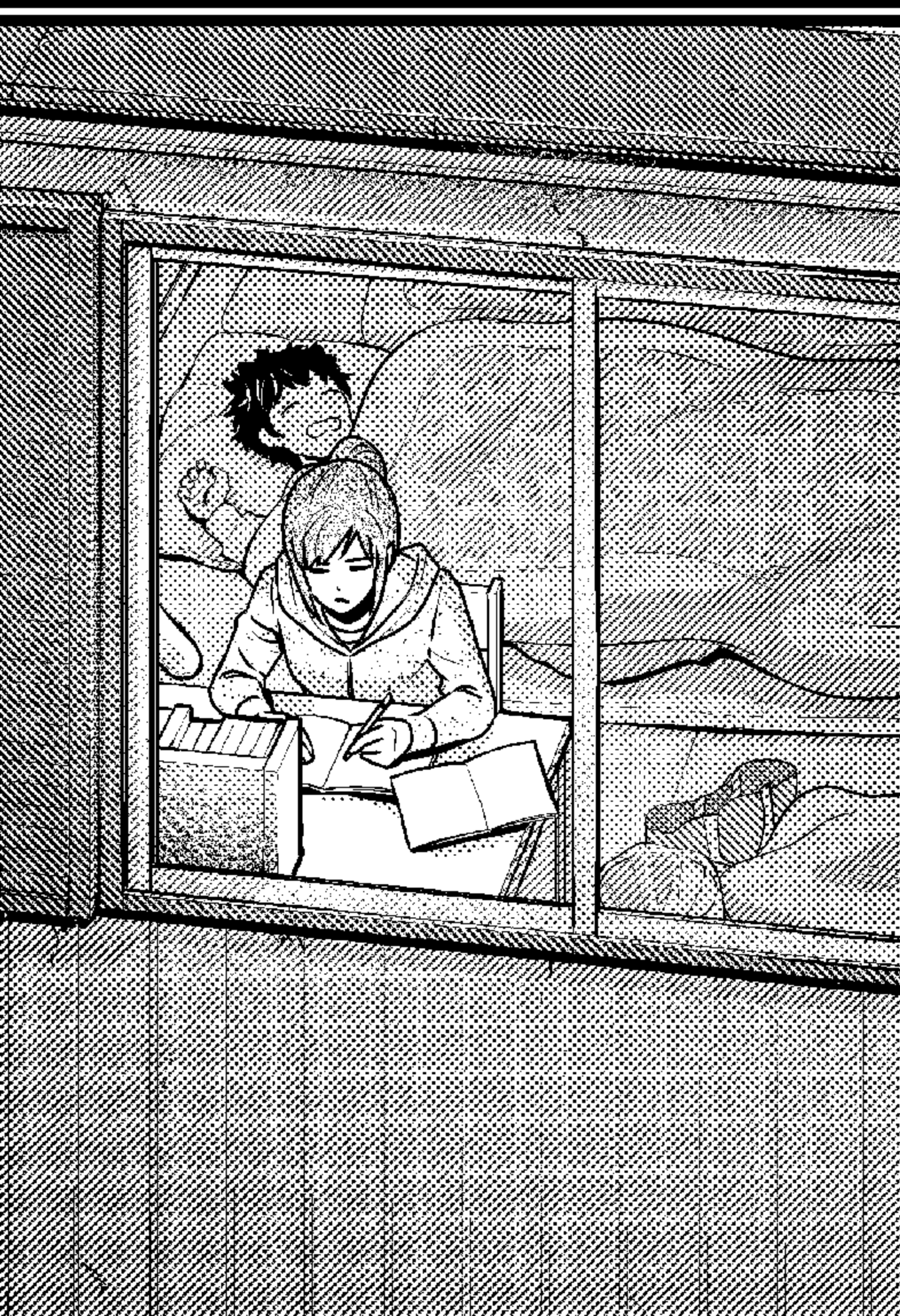
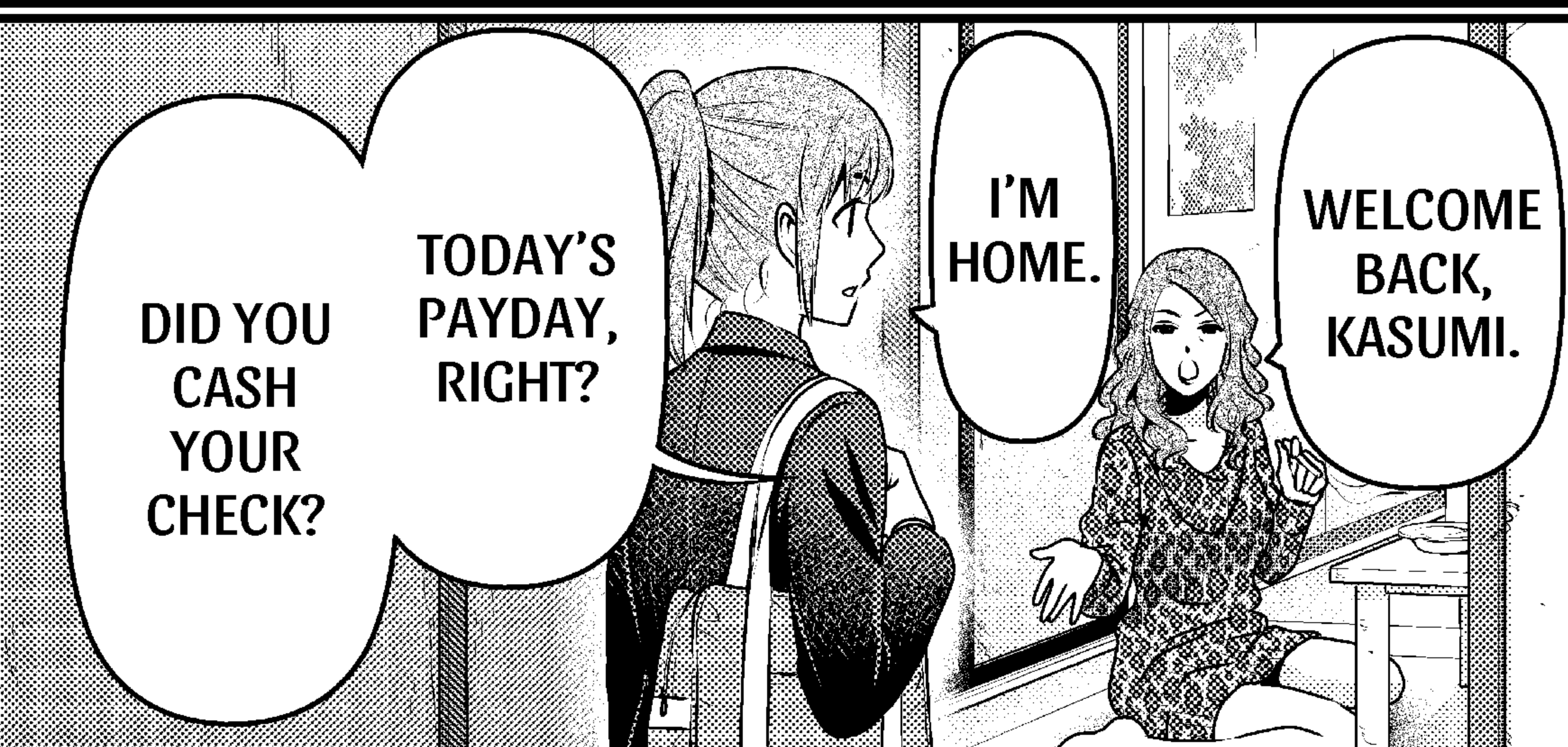
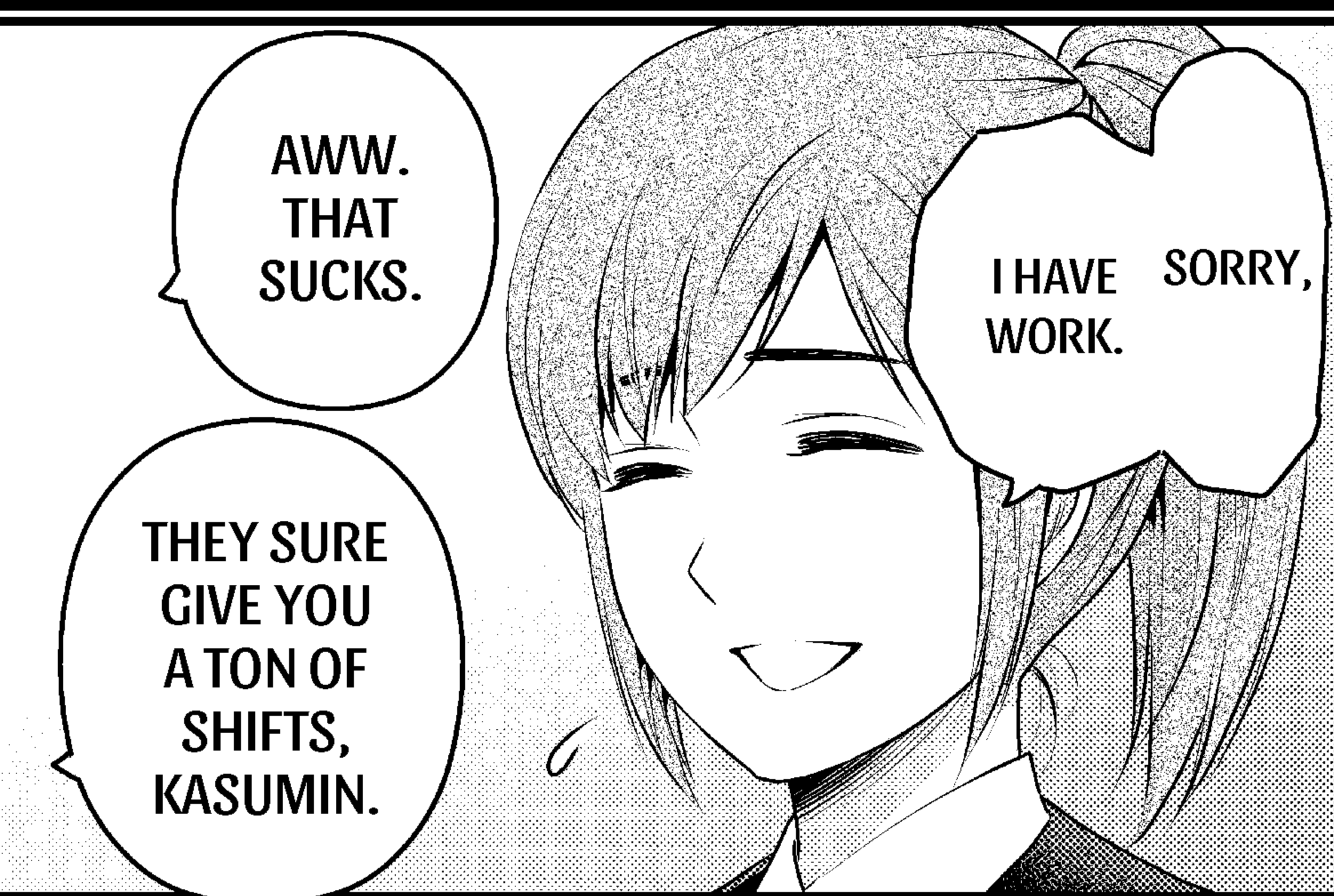
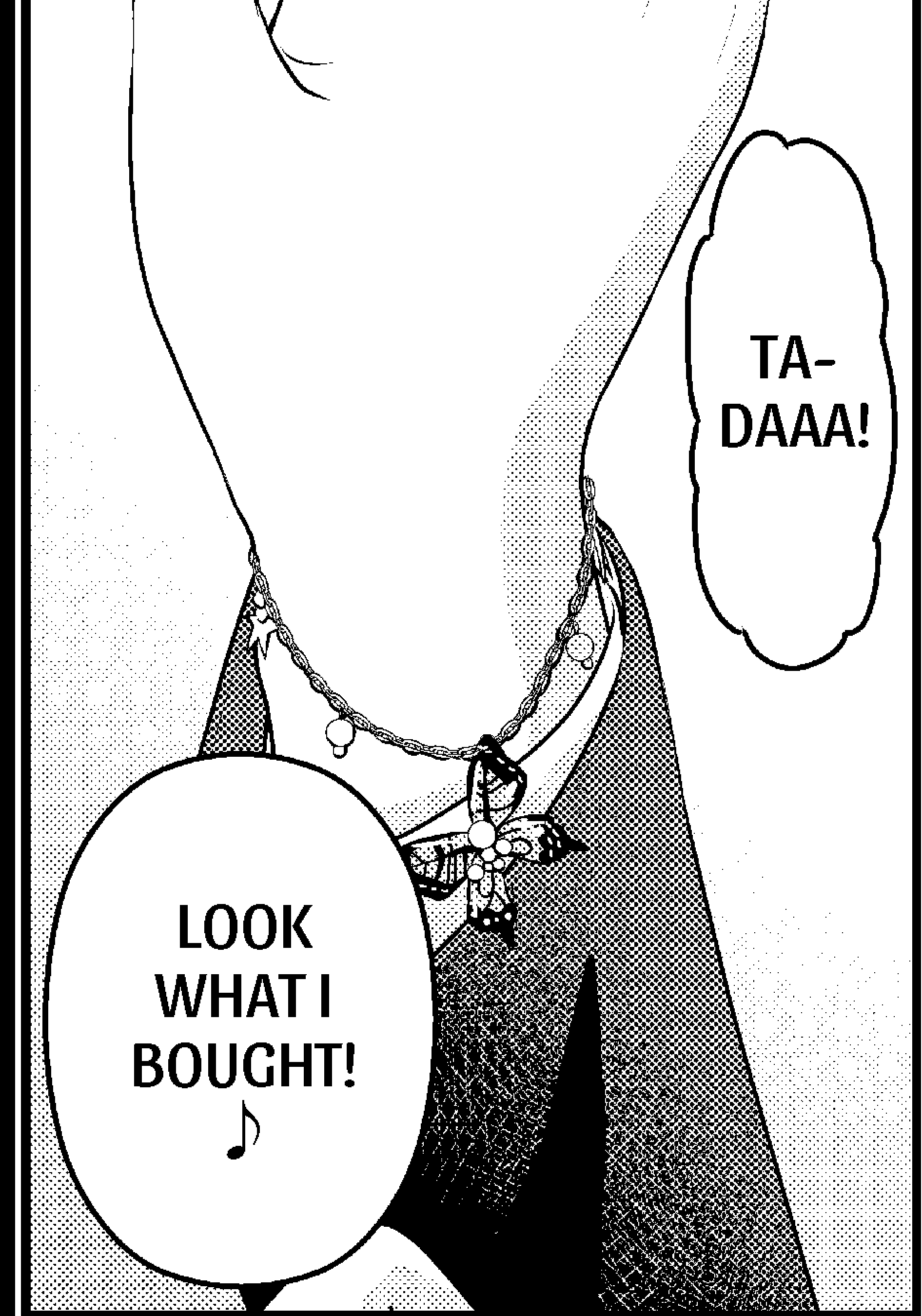










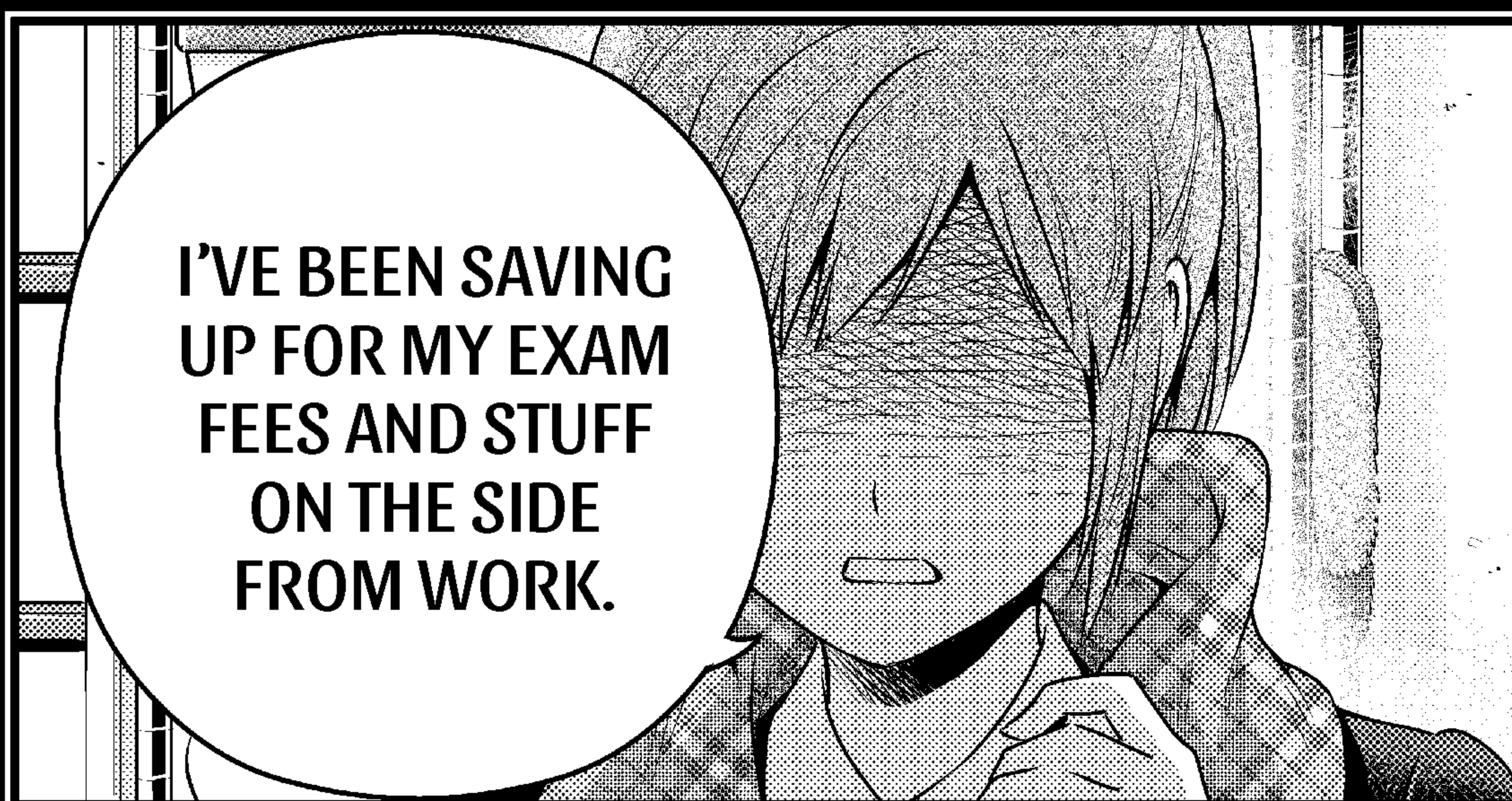




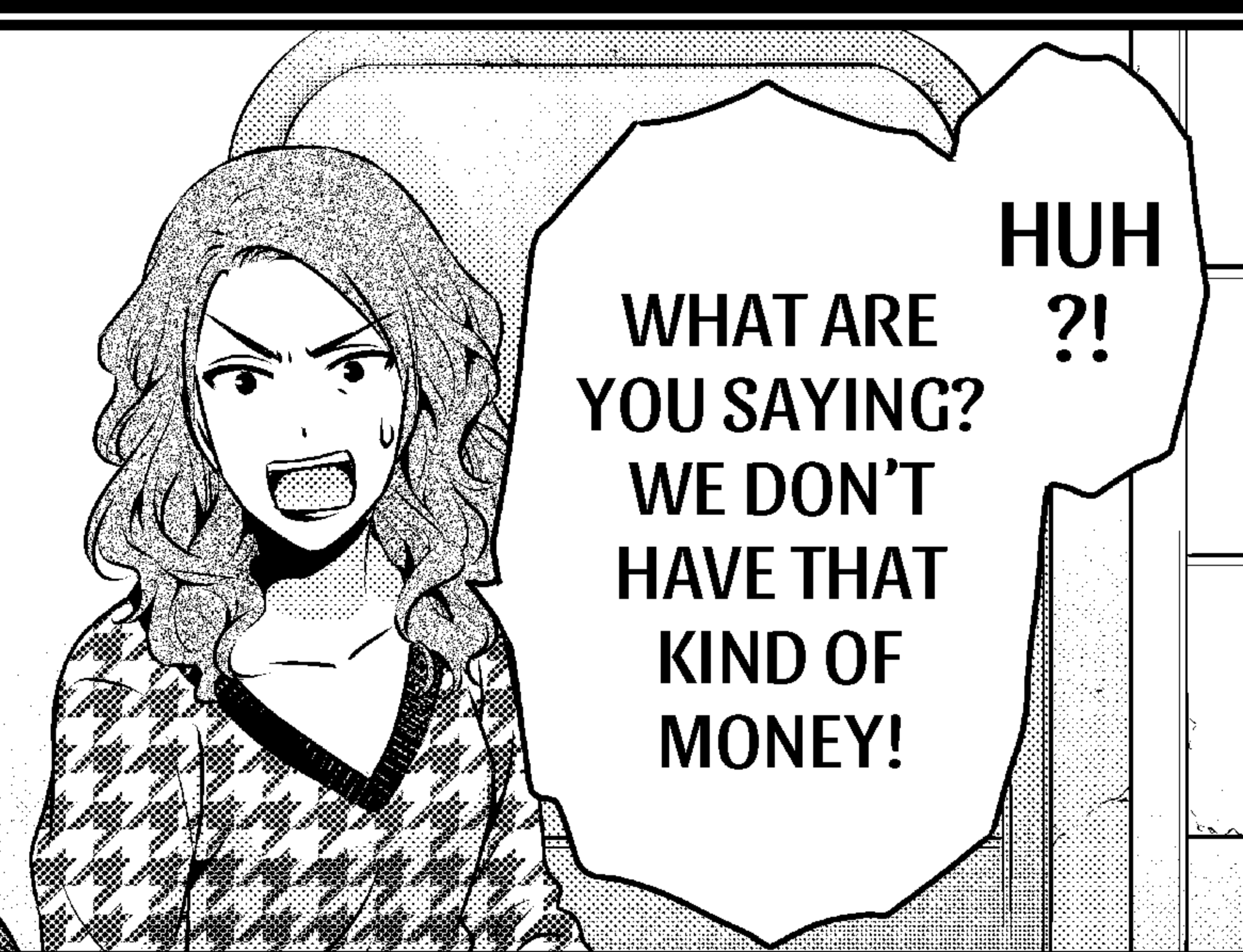


HEY,  
MOM.

I'M GOING  
TO COLLEGE  
IN TOKYO.

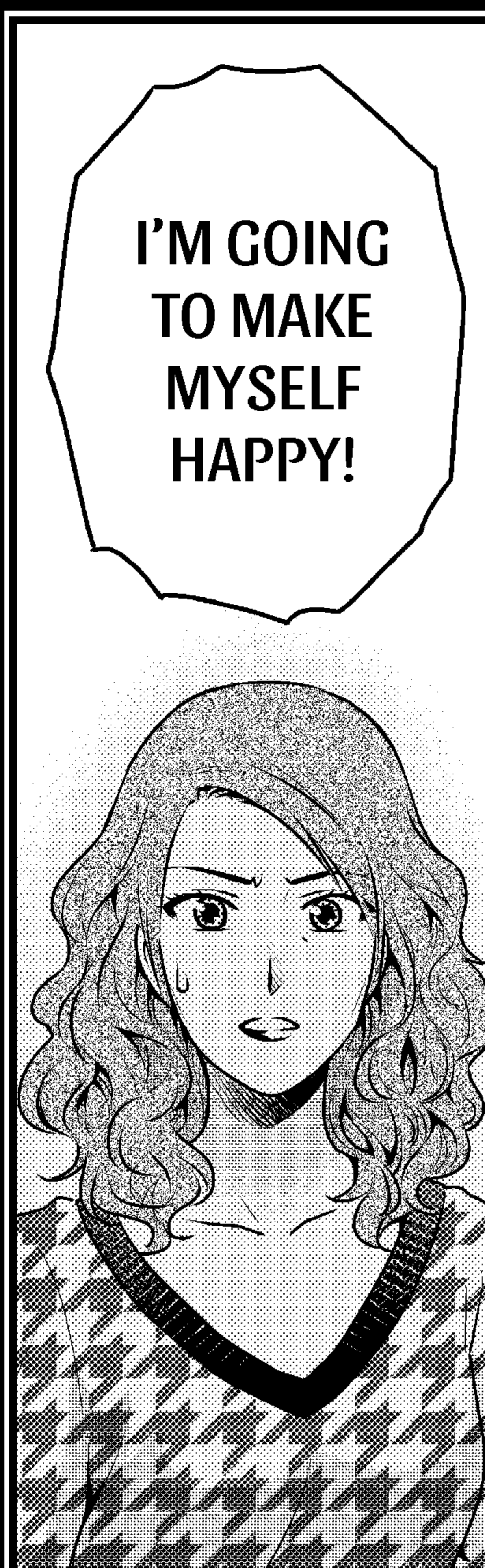


I'VE BEEN SAVING  
UP FOR MY EXAM  
FEES AND STUFF  
ON THE SIDE  
FROM WORK.



HUH  
?!

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING?  
WE DON'T  
HAVE THAT  
KIND OF  
MONEY!



I'M GOING  
TO MAKE  
MYSELF  
HAPPY!



I'VE BEEN  
ENDURING IT  
ALL THIS TIME  
BECAUSE I'M  
THE OLDEST,  
BUT I CAN'T  
TAKE IT  
ANYMORE!

I'M  
DONE!

I CAN'T BUY  
ANYTHING I  
WANT, I DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
TIME TO HANG  
OUT WITH  
FRIENDS...



KASUMI  
...

I'M  
SICK OF  
THIS!





AND  
SO...

...YOU  
GOT THE  
IDEA TO  
WORK AT  
A PINK  
SALON?



IT'S OLD  
AND THE  
WALLS ARE  
SUPER  
THIN.

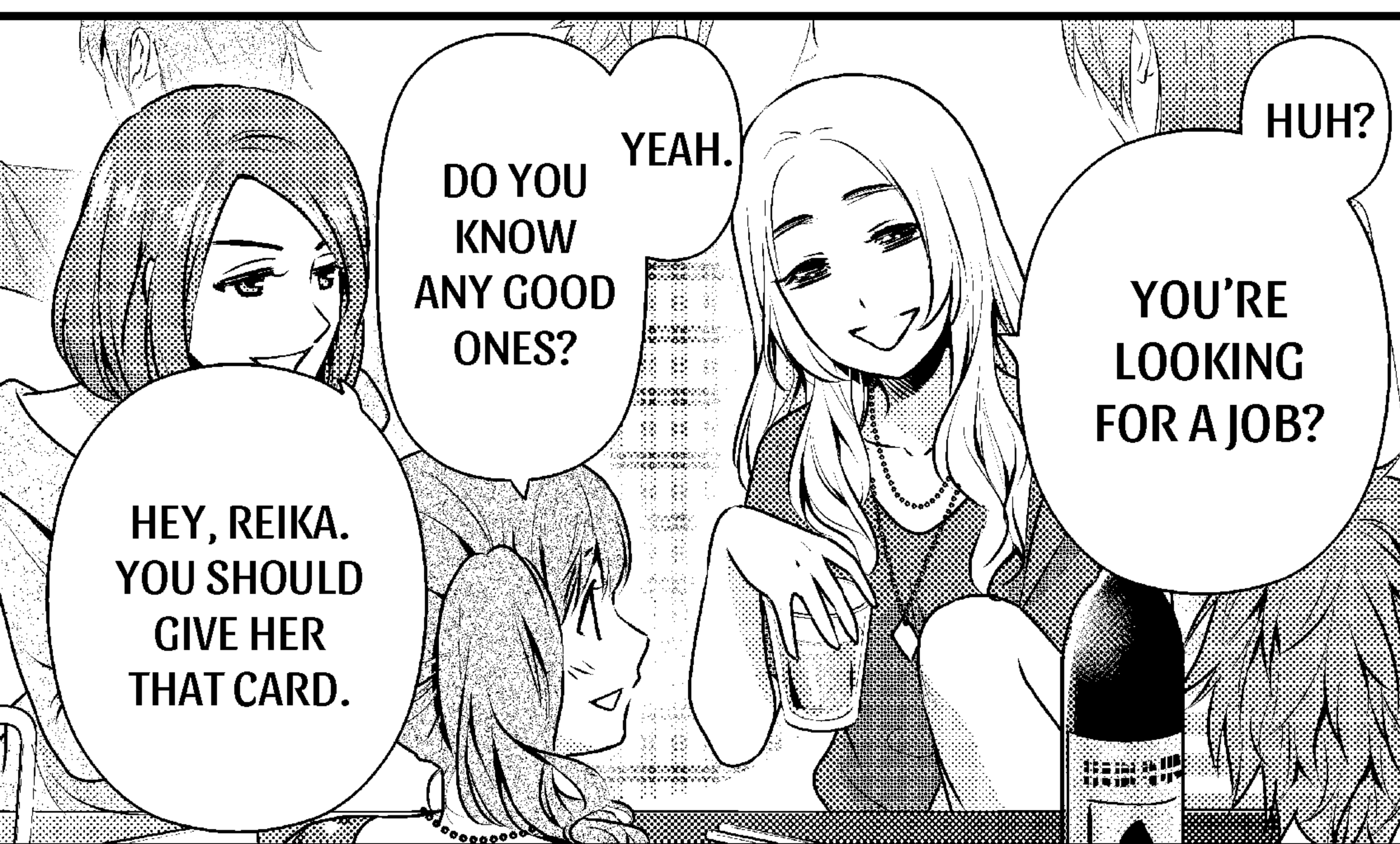
TO BE  
HONEST,  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
LIVE AT THAT  
APARTMENT,  
EITHER.

BUT IT'S  
ALL I CAN  
AFFORD.



THEN, I  
BASICALLY  
RAN AWAY  
FROM  
HOME AND  
MOVED TO  
TOKYO,

AND  
HERE WE  
ARE.



DO YOU  
KNOW  
ANY GOOD  
ONES?

YEAH.

YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR A JOB?

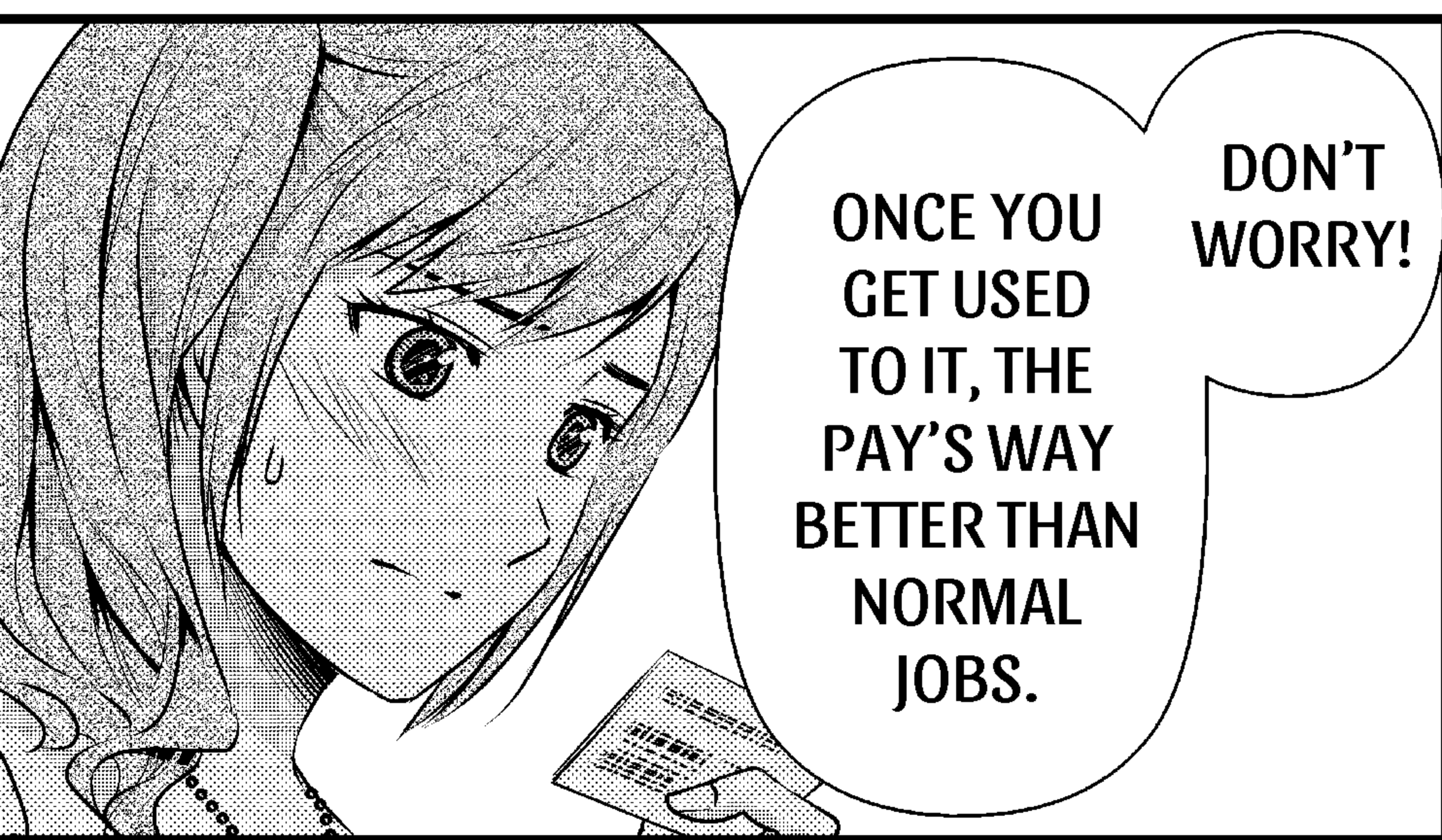
HUH?

HEY, REIKA.  
YOU SHOULD  
GIVE HER  
THAT CARD.



YEAH...

I GOT THE  
IDEA AT  
THE PARTY  
CLUB I  
JOINED.



ONCE YOU  
GET USED  
TO IT, THE  
PAY'S WAY  
BETTER THAN  
NORMAL  
JOBS.

DON'T  
WORRY!



BUT  
WHAT  
OTHER  
CHOICE  
DO I  
HAVE?

I KNOW  
IT'S A  
RISKY  
JOB,



PINK  
SALON?

UH-  
HUH.

IT'S LIKE  
SOFTCORE  
PROSTITUTION,  
I GUESS?  
THERE'S NO  
ACTUAL SEX  
INVOLVED.

P-

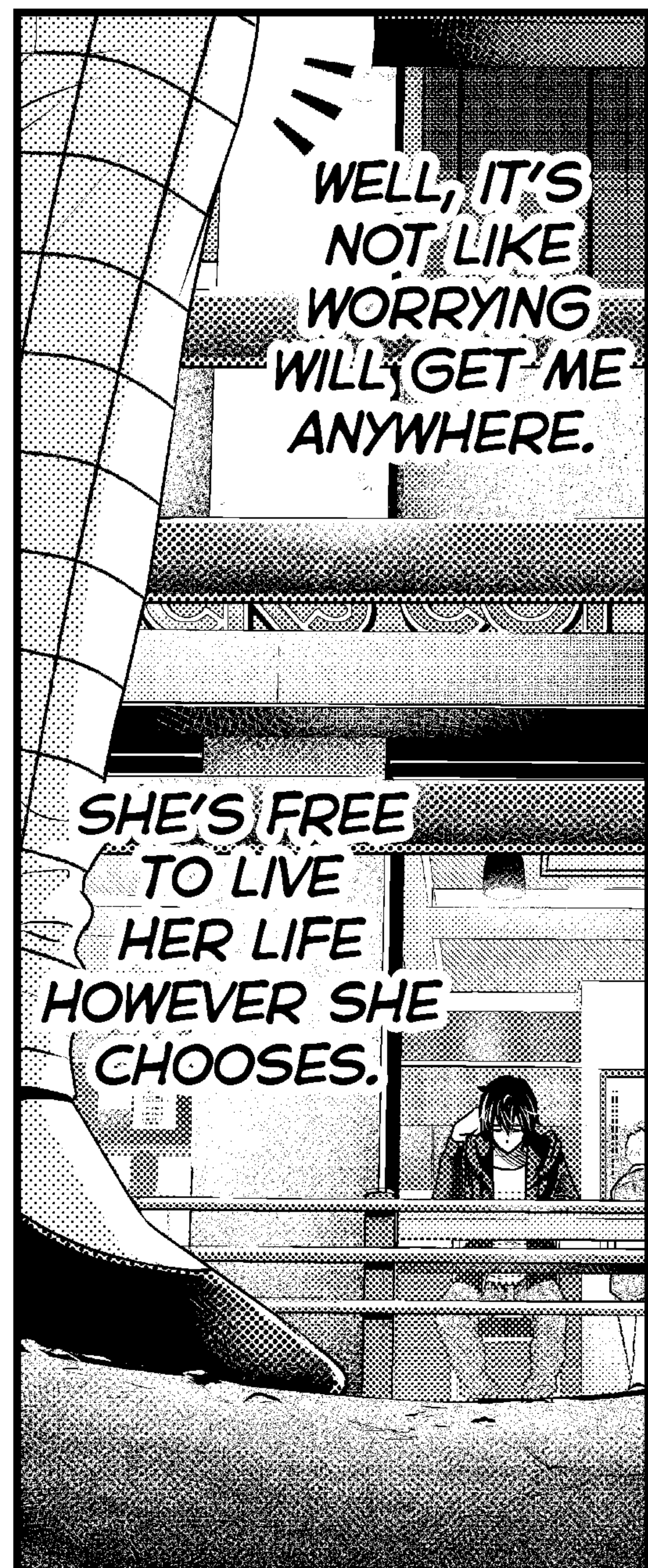
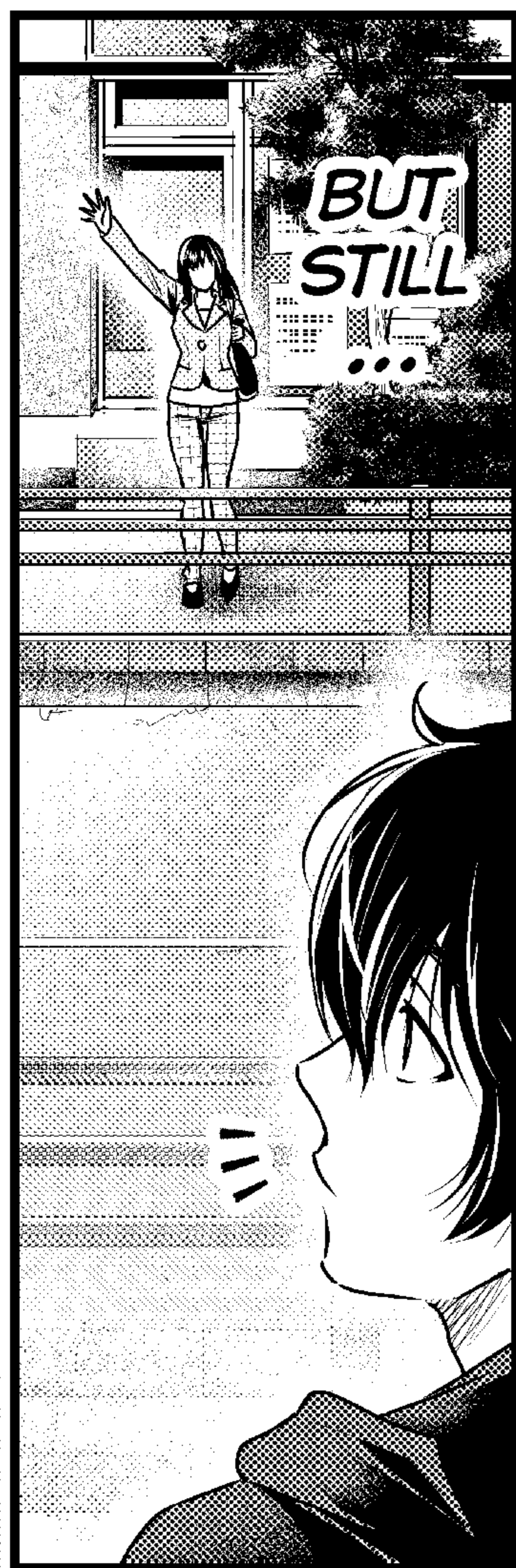
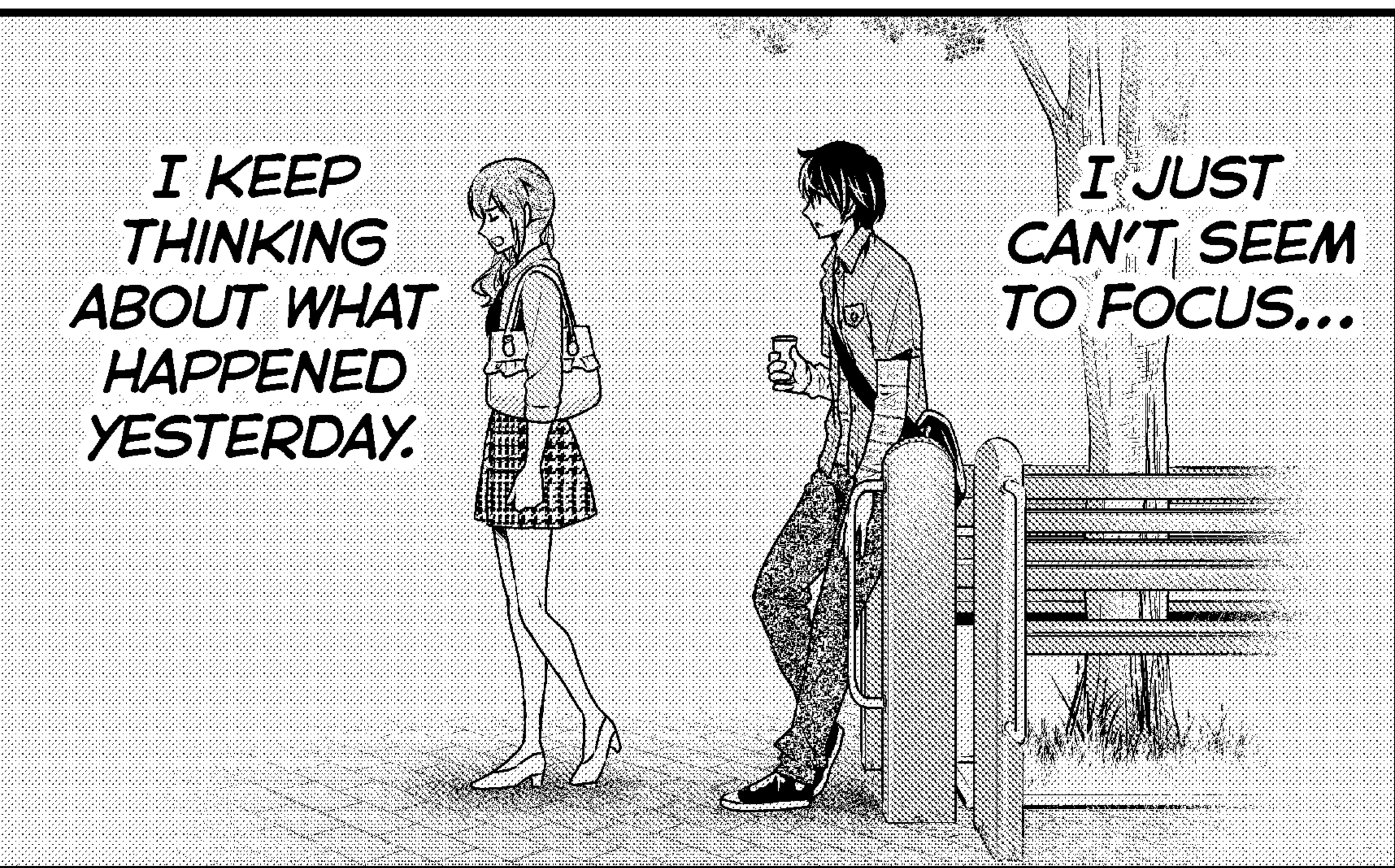
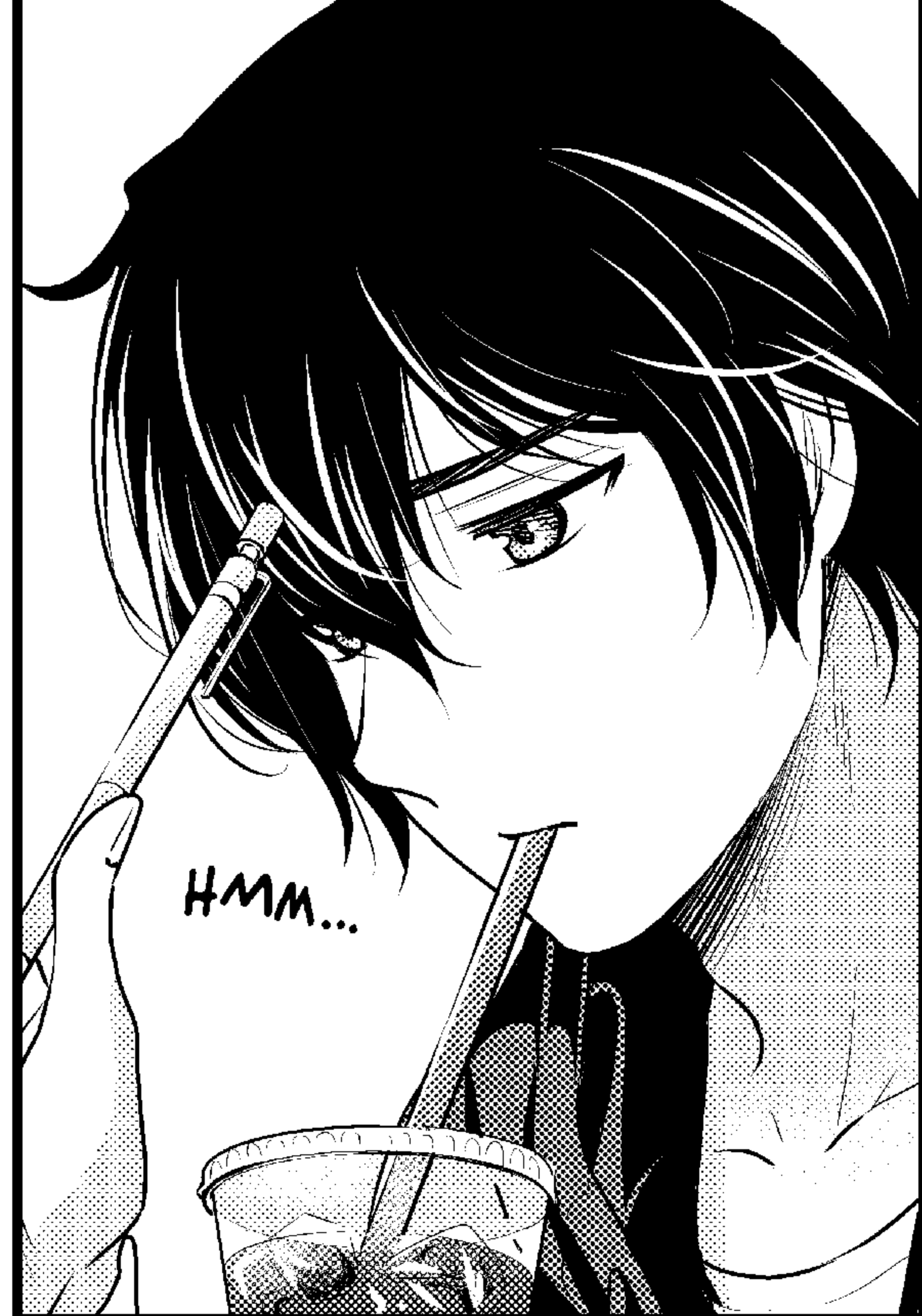
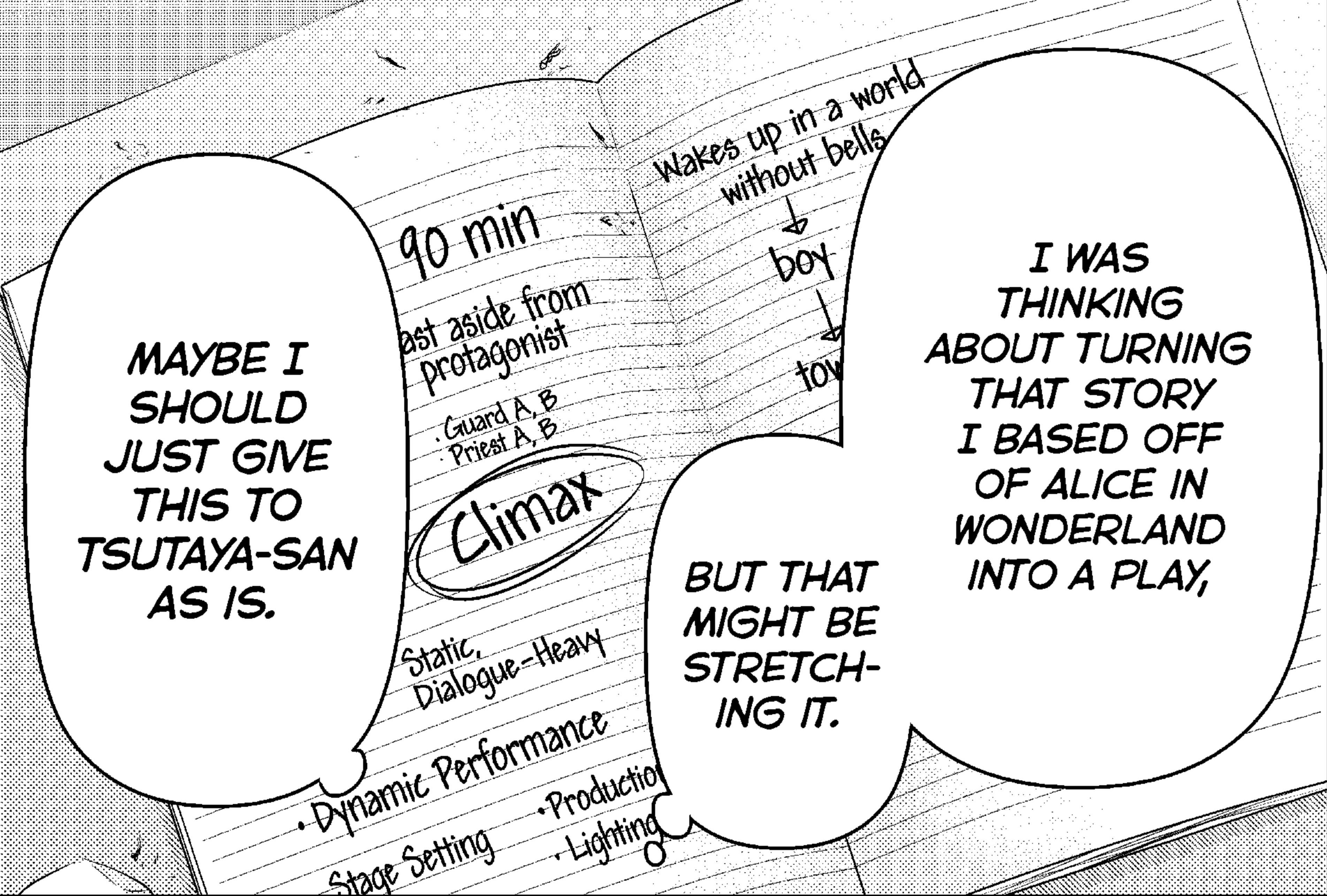
PROS-  
TI—!

TEL 03-0













THEY'RE  
EVEN  
GOING TO  
THROW  
ME A WEL-  
COMING  
PARTY.

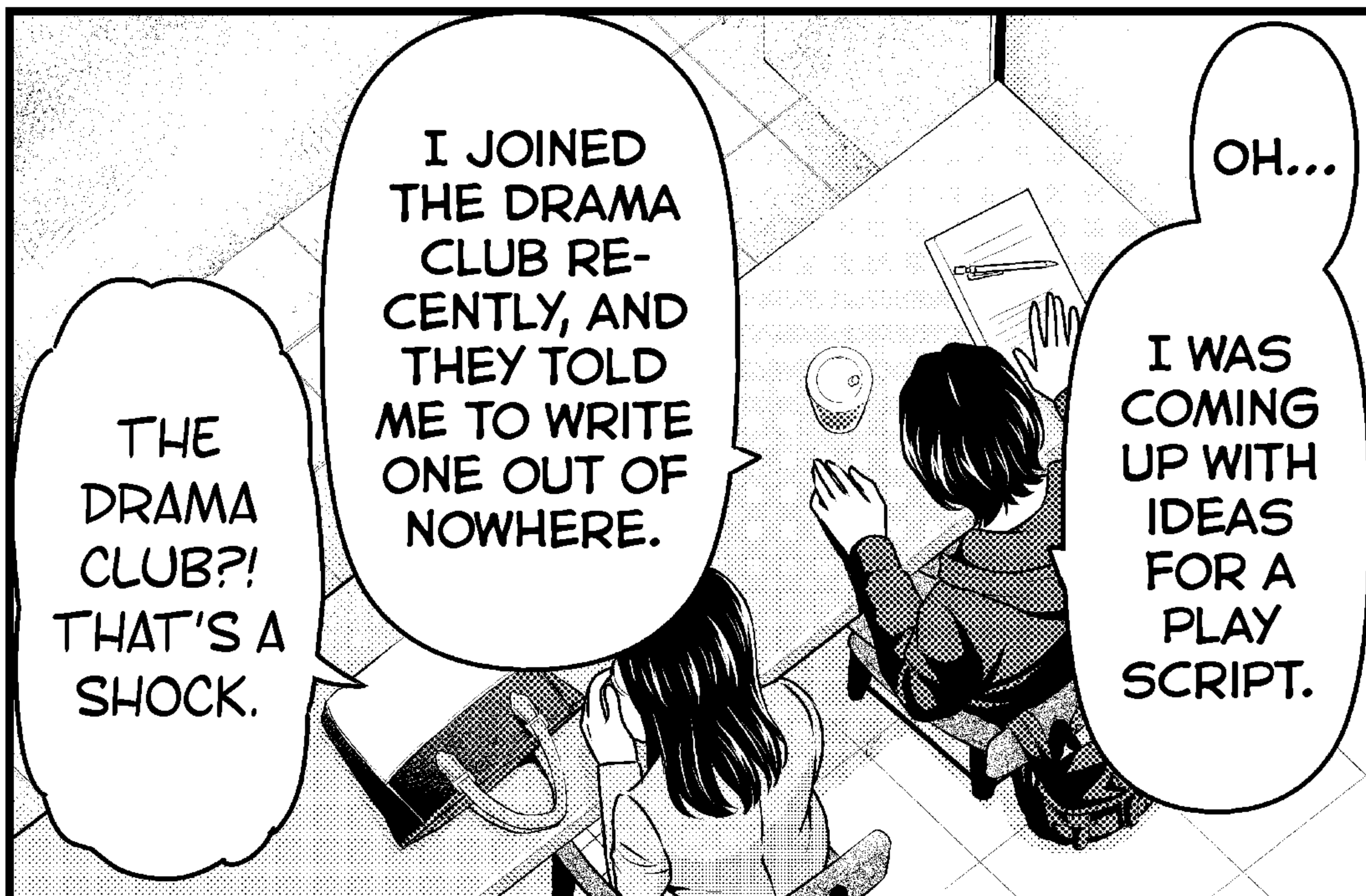
ALL MY  
COWORK-  
ERS ARE  
GREAT  
PEOPLE.

GREAT.

I'M  
GETTING  
USED TO  
THINGS  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE.



HOW'S  
WORK  
GOING?



THE  
DRAMA  
CLUB?!  
THAT'S A  
SHOCK.

I JOINED  
THE DRAMA  
CLUB RE-  
CENTLY, AND  
THEY TOLD  
ME TO WRITE  
ONE OUT OF  
NOWHERE.

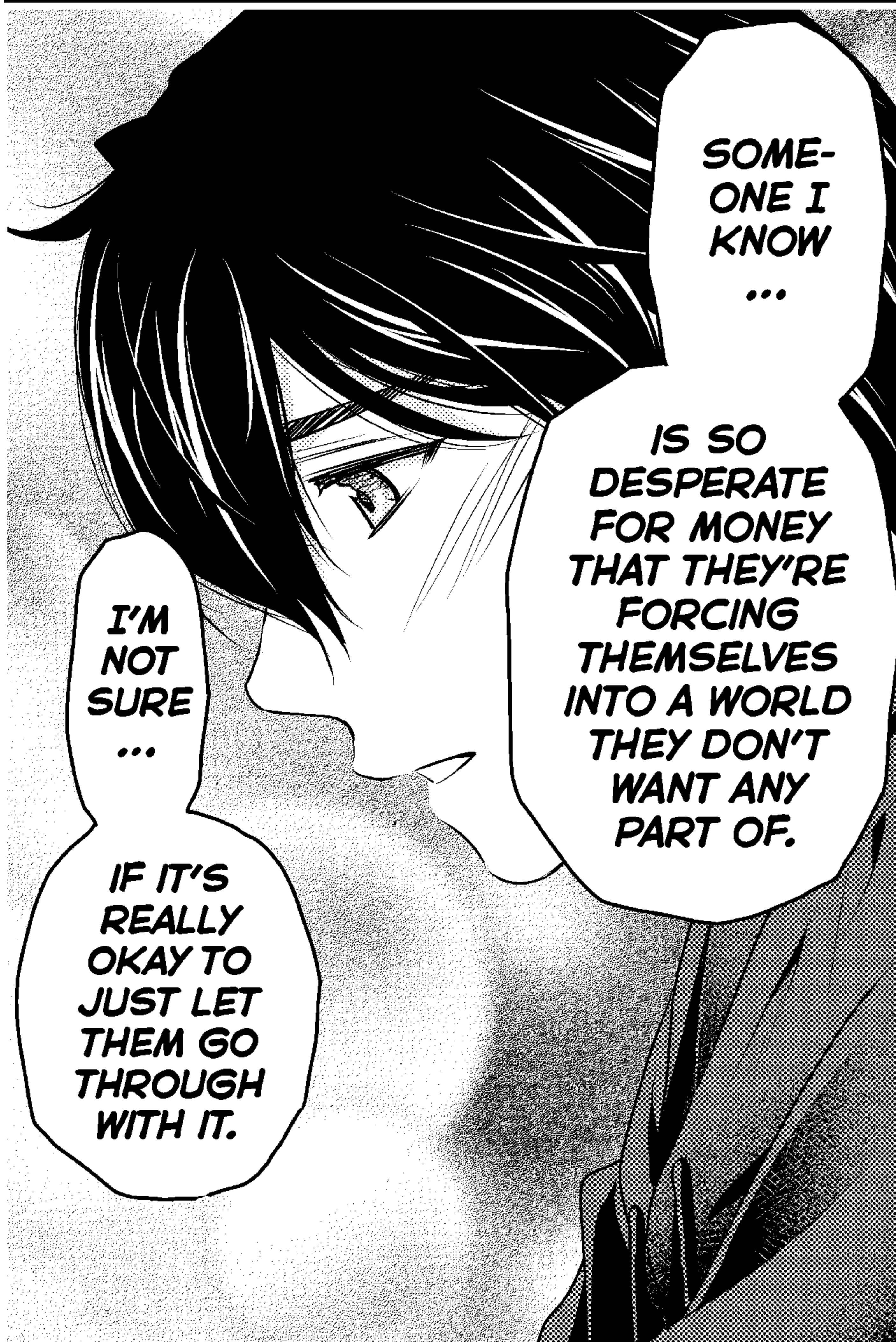
OH...

I WAS  
COMING  
UP WITH  
IDEAS  
FOR A  
PLAY  
SCRIPT.



IS THAT  
HOME-  
WORK?

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU,  
NATSUO-  
KUN? HOW'S  
COLLEGE?

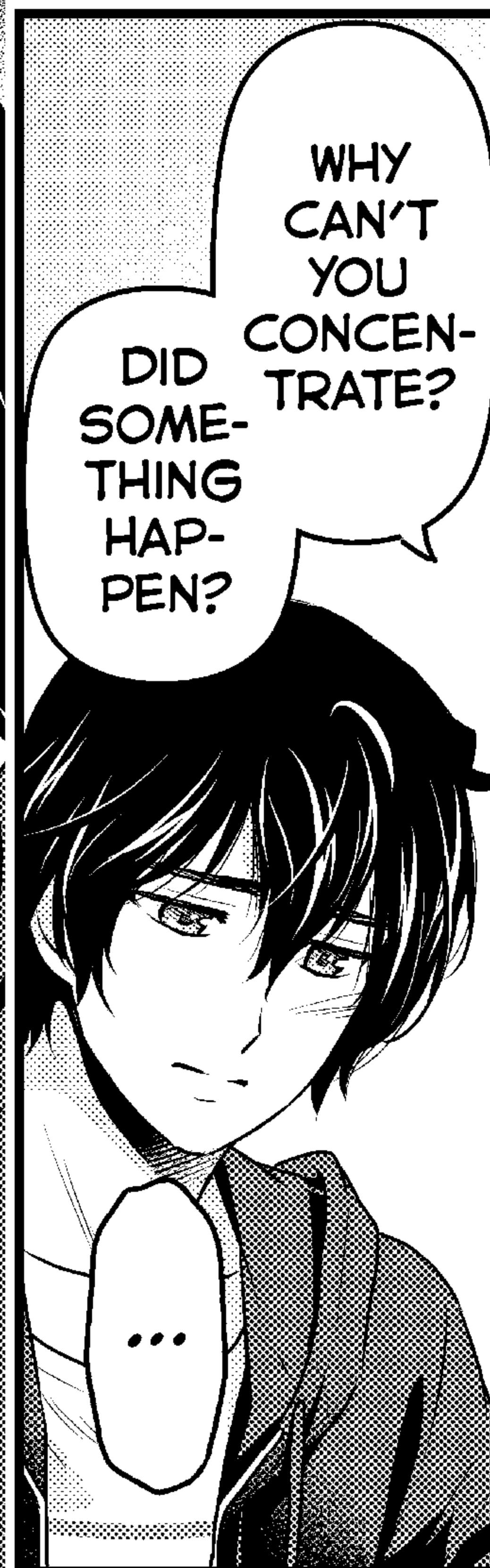


SOME-  
ONE I  
KNOW  
...

IS SO  
DESPERATE  
FOR MONEY  
THAT THEY'RE  
FORCING  
THEMSELVES  
INTO A WORLD  
THEY DON'T  
WANT ANY  
PART OF.

I'M  
NOT  
SURE  
...

IF IT'S  
REALLY  
OKAY TO  
JUST LET  
THEM GO  
THROUGH  
WITH IT.



DID SOME-  
THING HAP-  
PEN?

WHY  
CAN'T  
YOU CON-  
CENTRATE?

...



BUT I  
CAN'T  
REALLY  
CONCENTRATE.

I'M  
GLAD YOU  
SHOWED UP.  
TALKING TO  
SOMEONE  
MIGHT  
TAKE MY  
MIND OFF  
THINGS.









F-FUJII-KUN?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HELLO?

MORN-ING.



?!

ALL RIGHT. YOU TOOK IT.



HERE.

HUH?



Ring

DING DONG

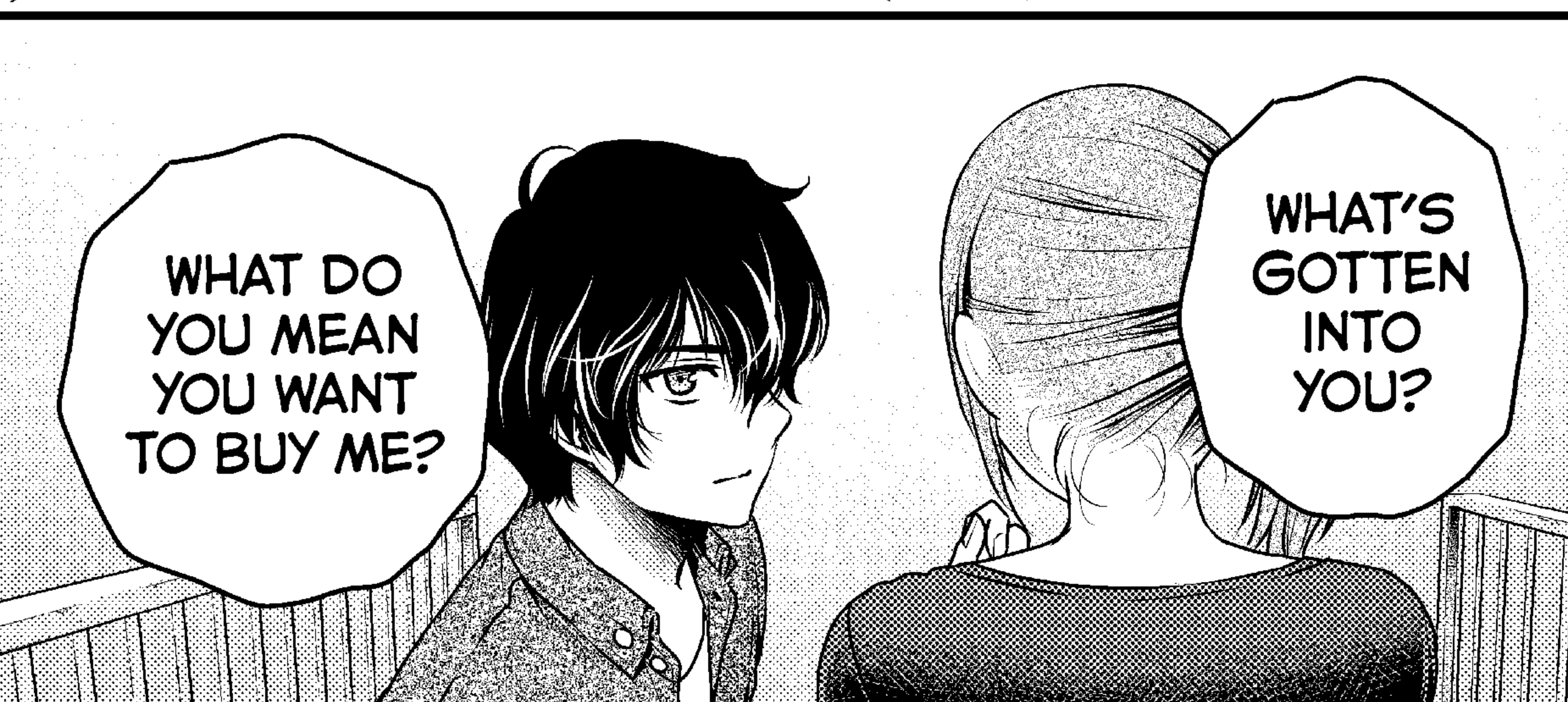
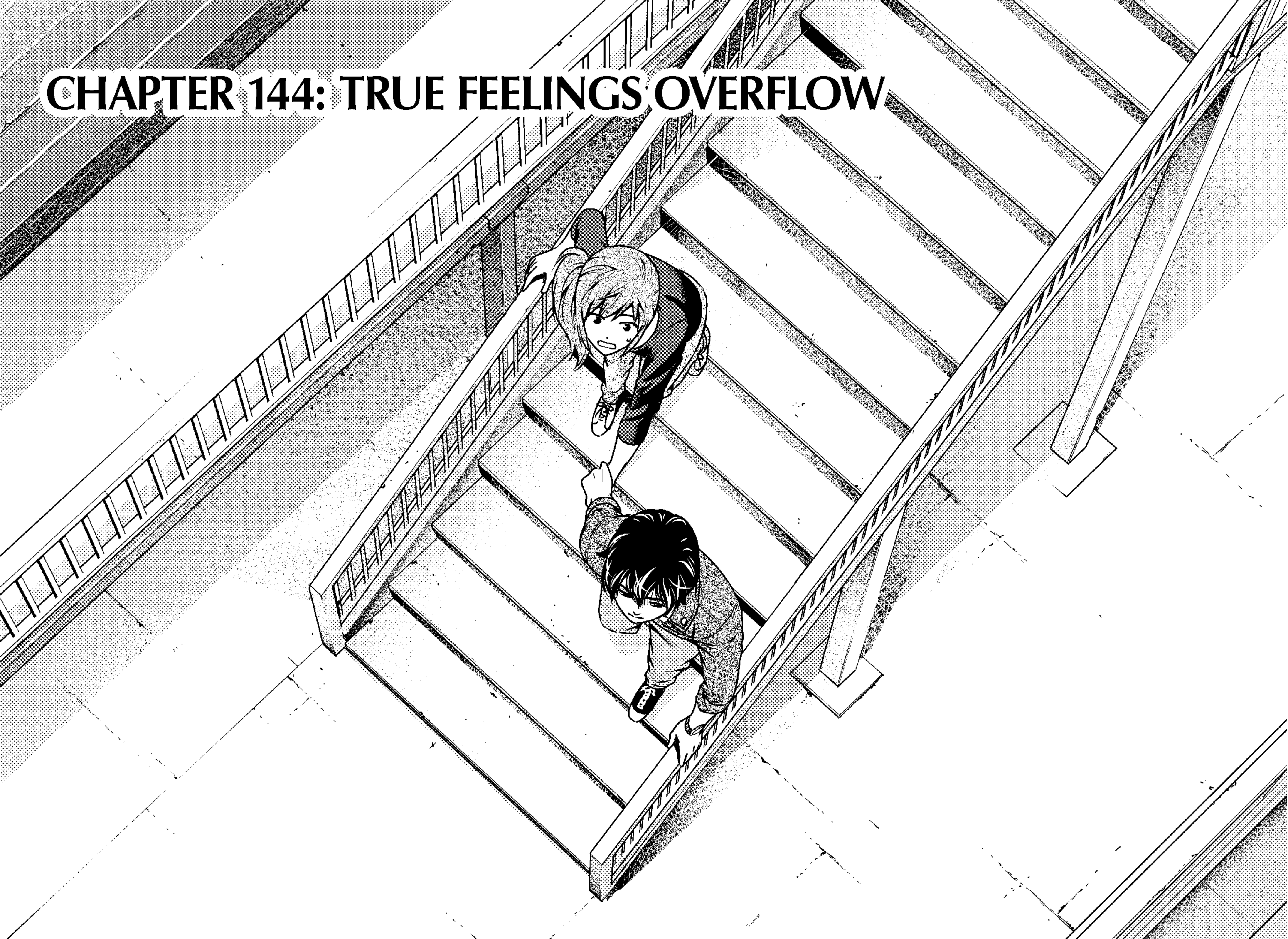


I'M BUYING YOU FOR THE DAY!


COME WITH ME!



# CHAPTER 144: TRUE FEELINGS OVERFLOW

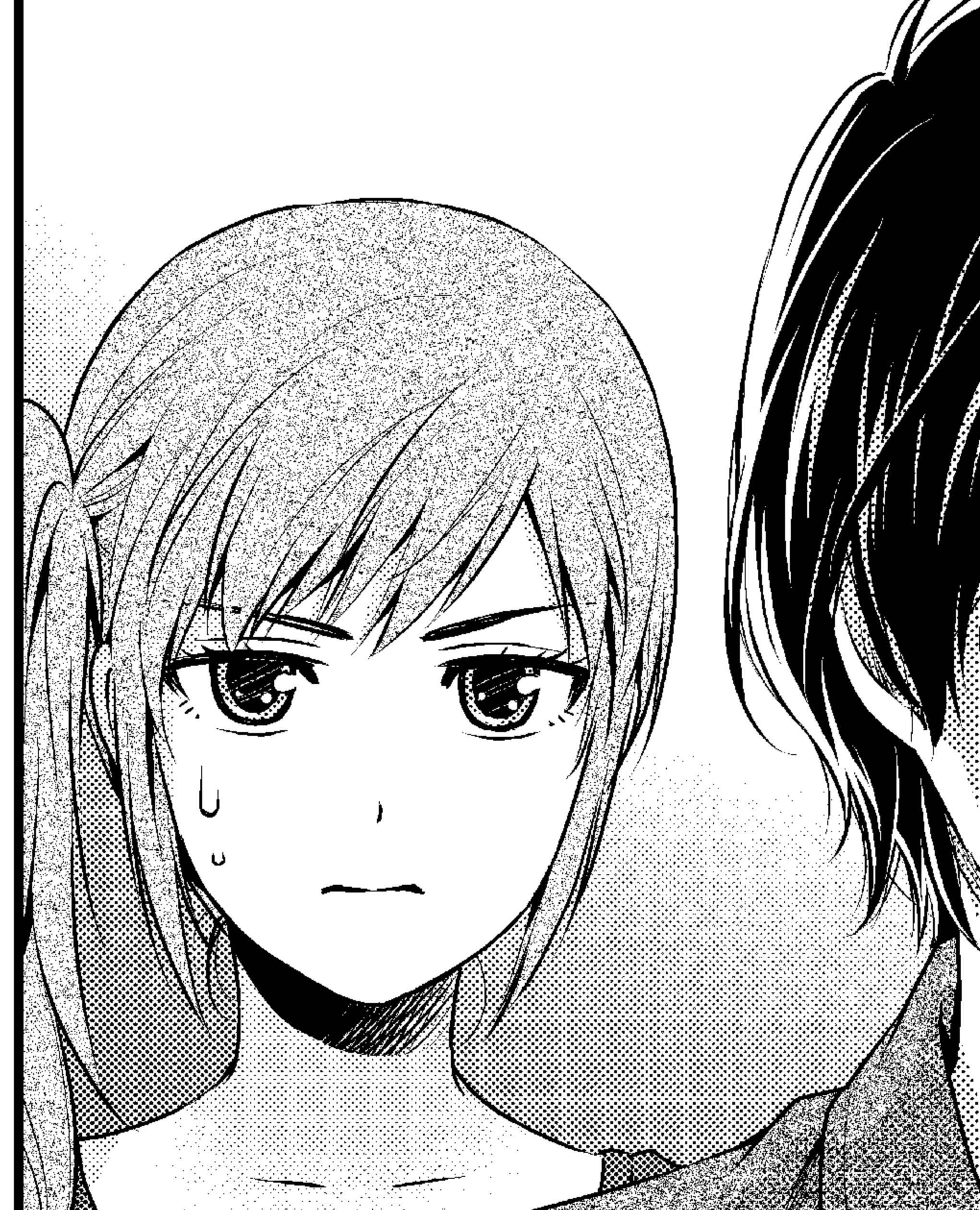






TALK ABOUT A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.

FIRST, HE STOPS ME FROM PROSTITUTING MYSELF, THEN HE TURNS AROUND AND BUYS ME...



...ALL KINDS OF AWFUL THINGS TO ME!

...AND DO...

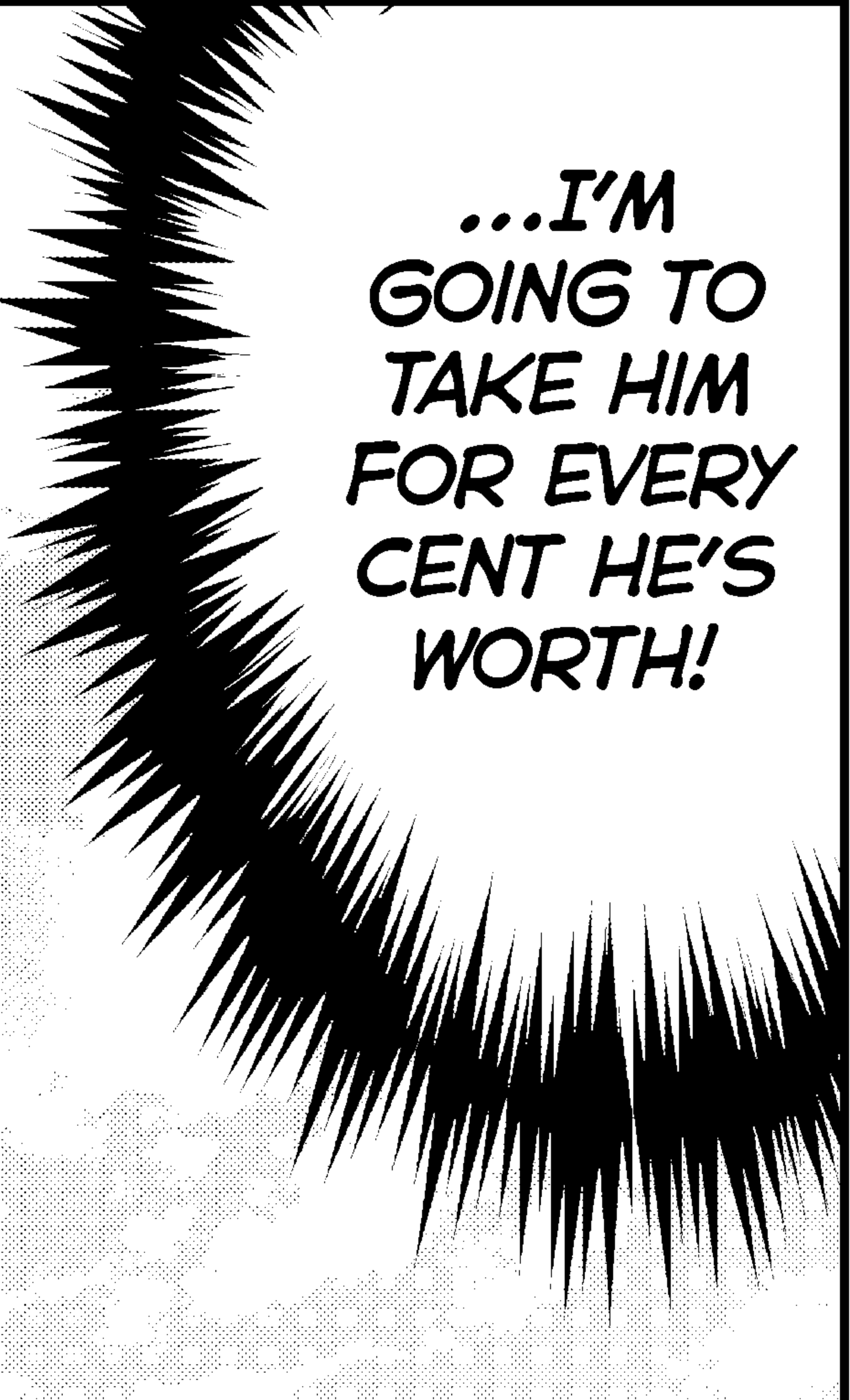
I BET HE'S GONNA TAKE ME SOMEWHERE ISOLATED...



HUH?



HERE WE ARE.



...I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM FOR EVERY CENT HE'S WORTH!



I SWEAR...

IF THAT HAPPENS...

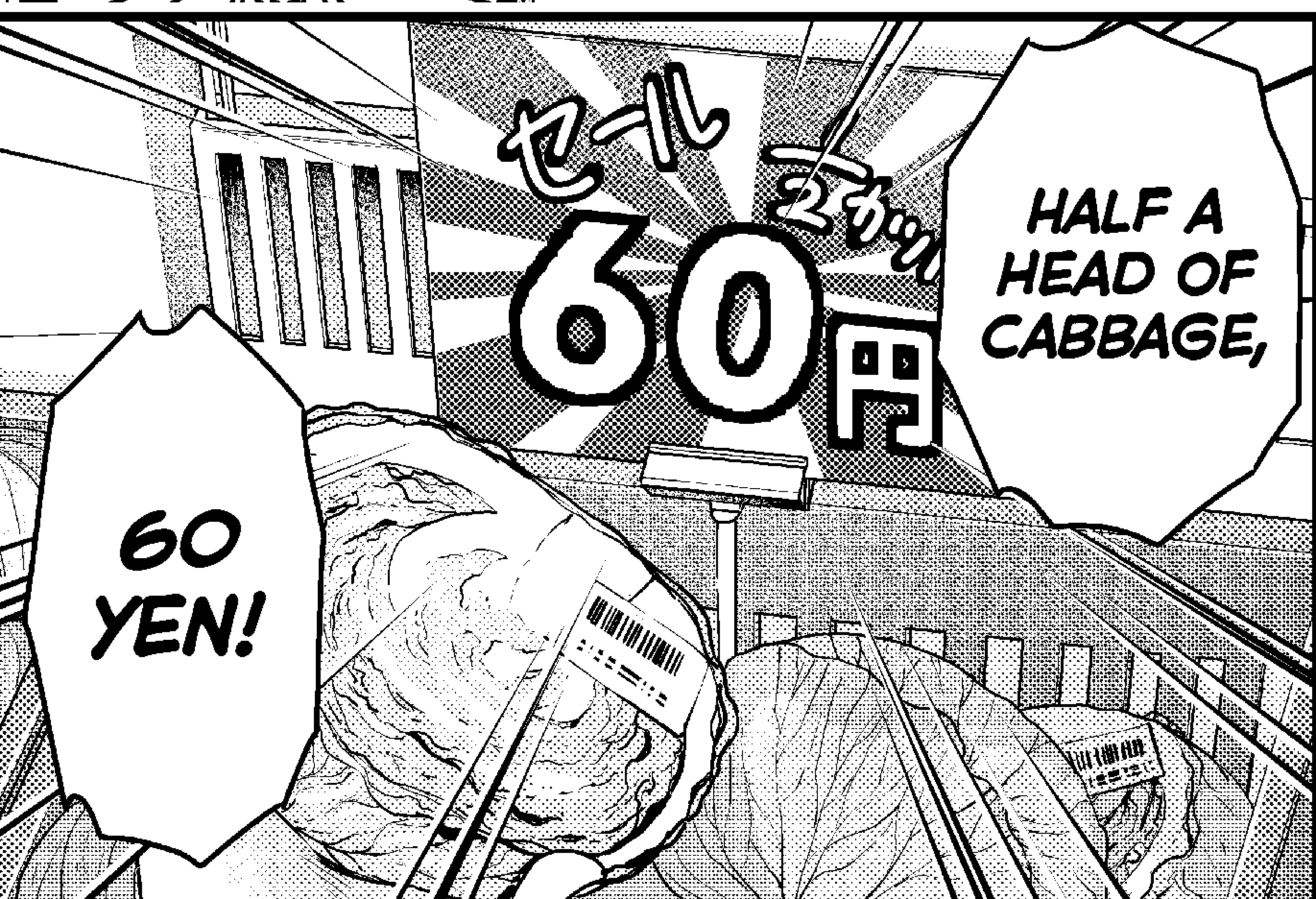
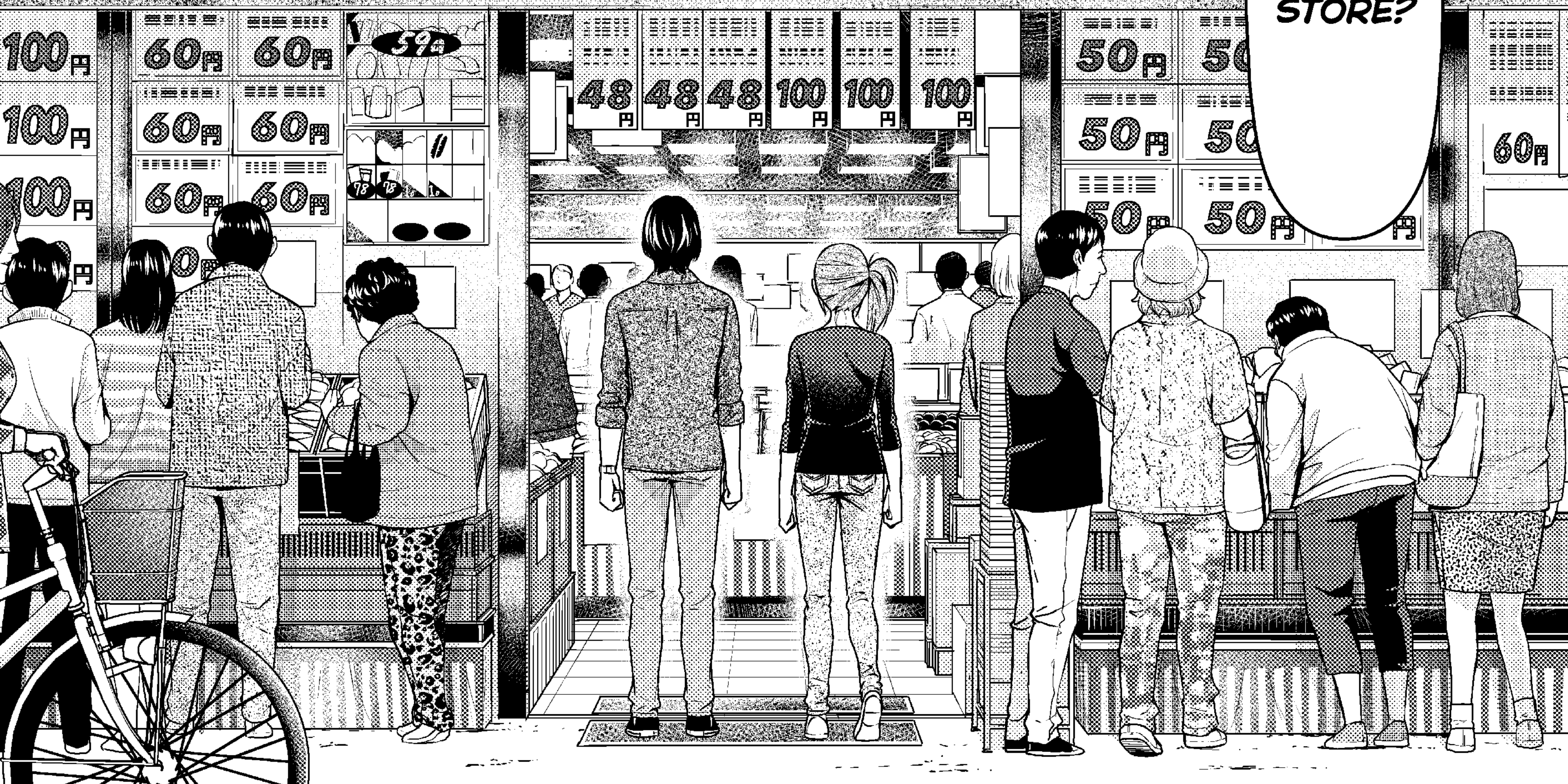


Fresh  
Produce

Unbeatable  
Prices

# SUPER MARUYAMA

THE  
GROCERY  
STORE?



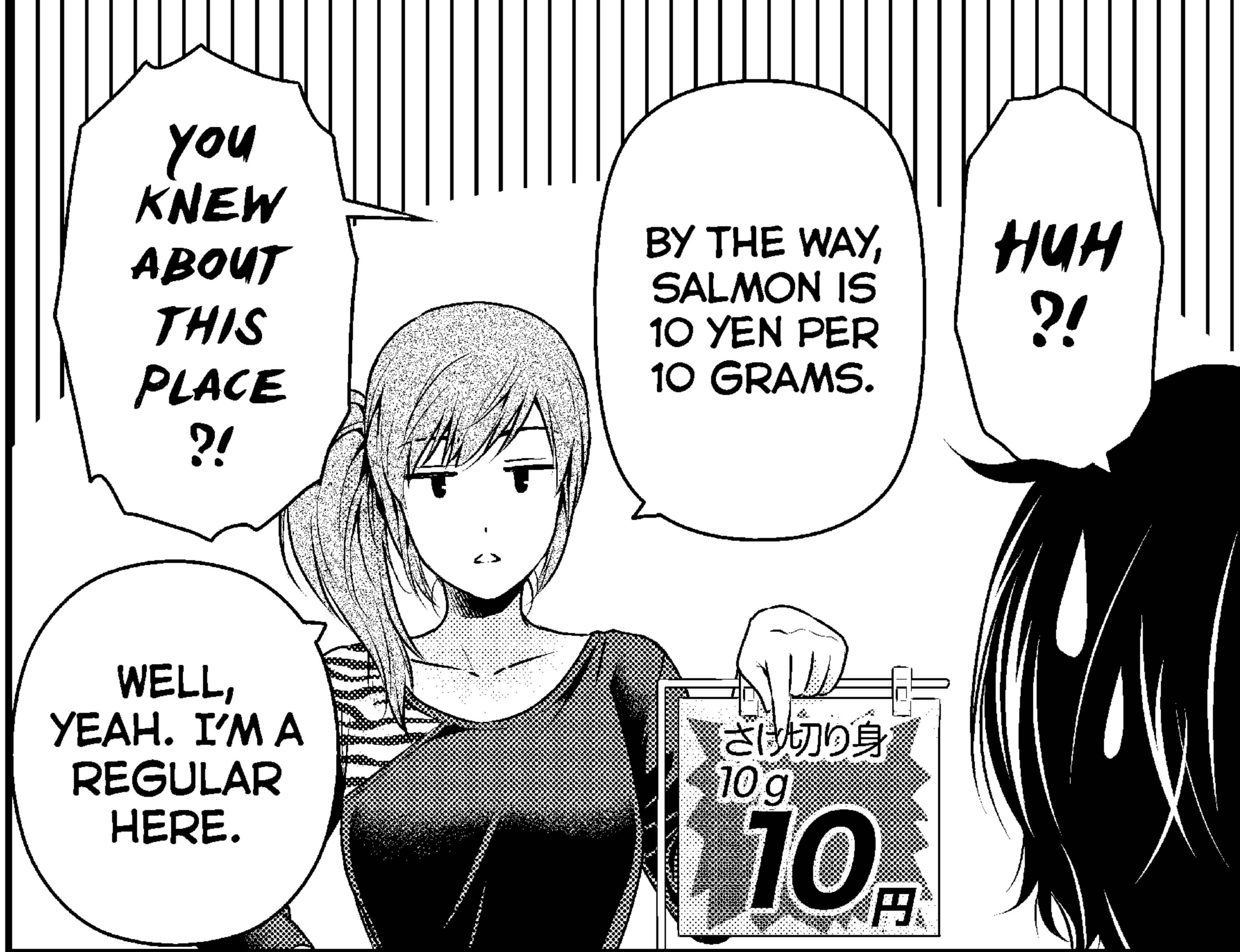
HALF A  
HEAD OF  
CABBAGE,







YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE SOOO CLEVER FINDING THIS PLACE, BUT EVERYONE AROUND HERE KNOWS ABOUT THIS BARGAIN MART.



WELL, YEAH. I'M A REGULAR HERE.

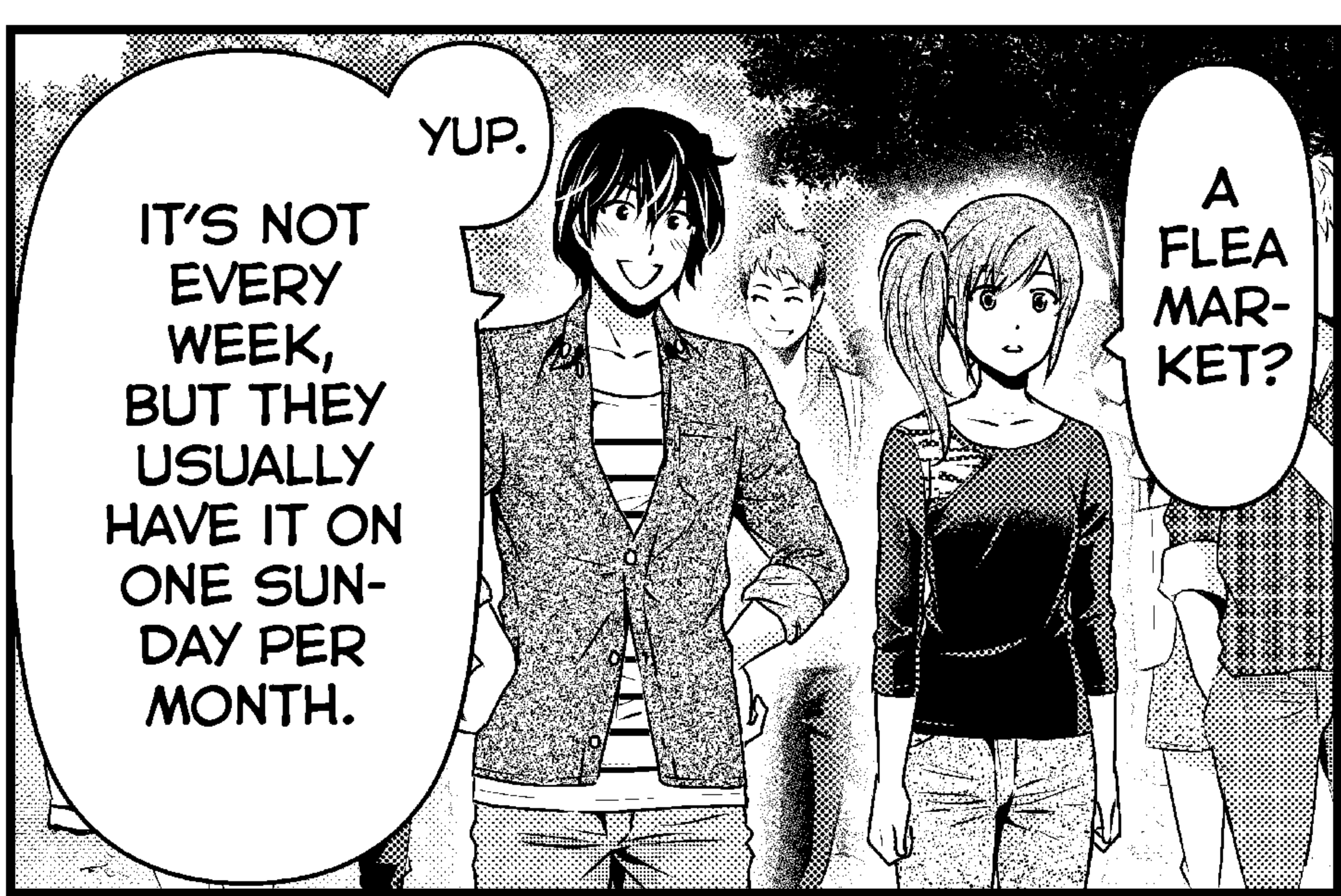
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE?!

BY THE WAY, SALMON IS 10 YEN PER 10 GRAMS.

HUH?!

ON TO THE NEXT PLACE!

WE- WELL, NO MATTER!



YUP.

IT'S NOT EVERY WEEK, BUT THEY USUALLY HAVE IT ON ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH.

A FLEA MARKET?



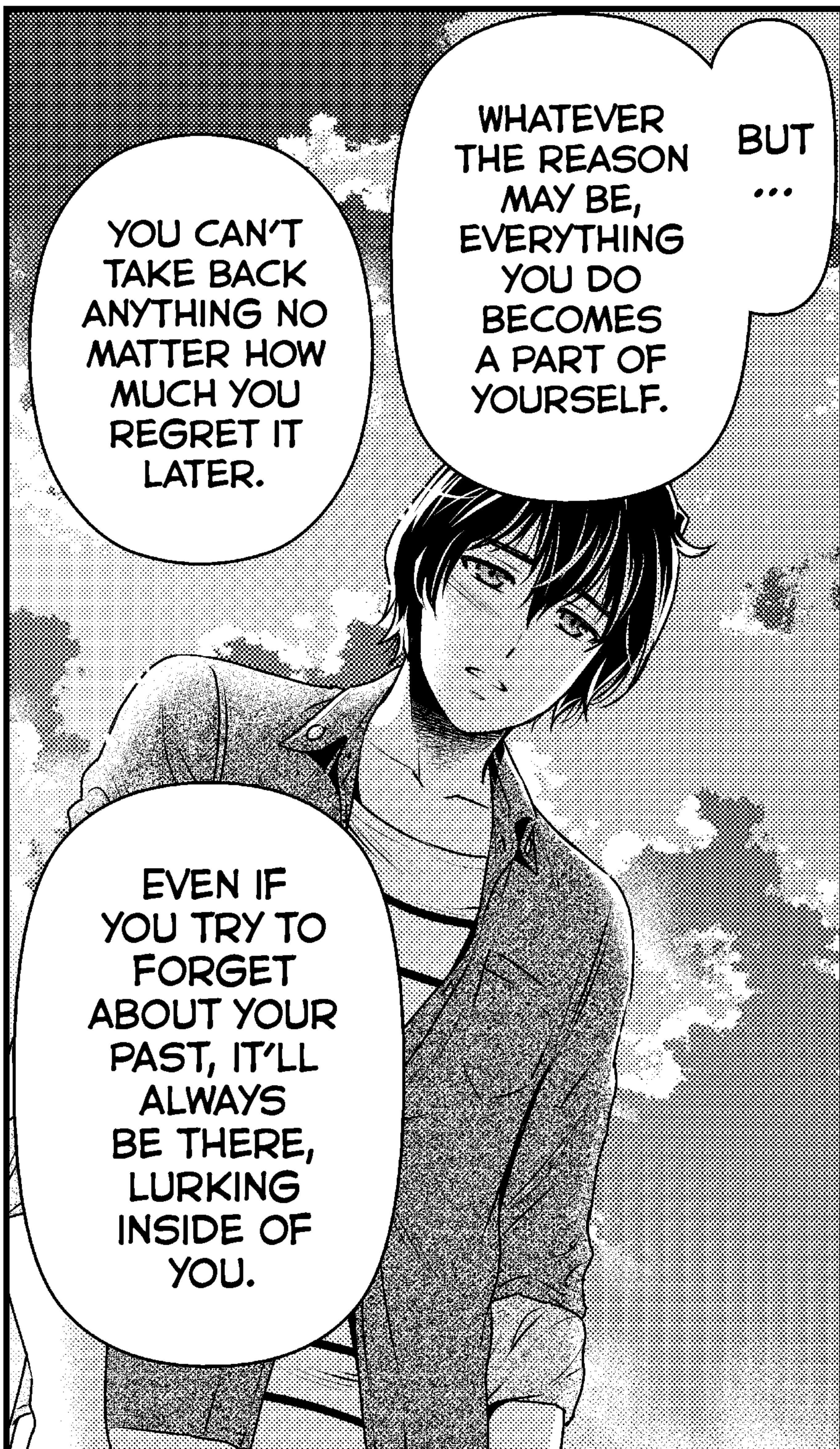
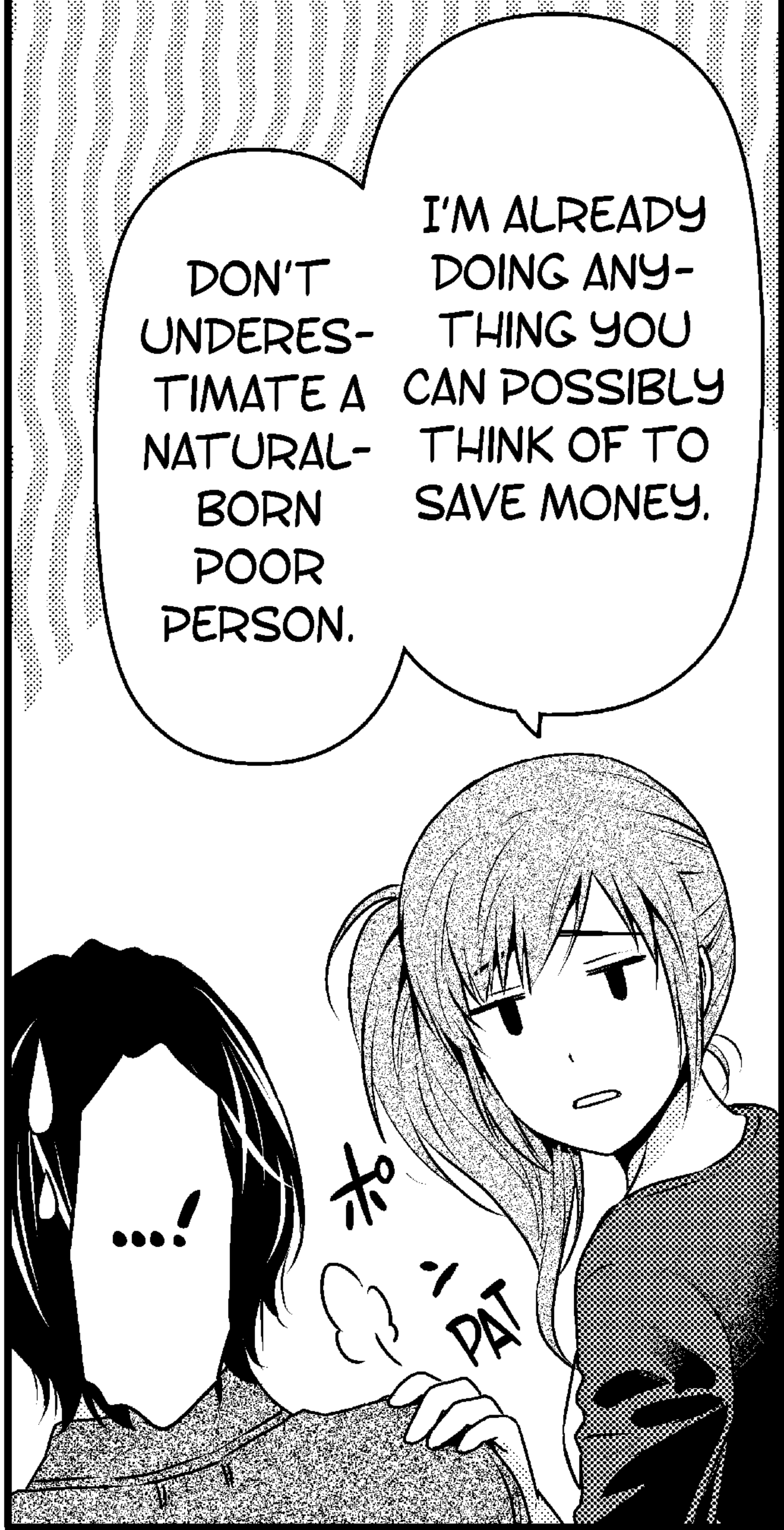
A LOT OF MEIJI U STUDENTS SET UP SHOP HERE, SO YOU CAN BUY THE LATEST FASHIONS PRETTY...

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, RIGHT?













A DREAM.

I HAD...

THE NIGHT BEFORE I WENT TO THE SALON,



BUT IF THERE'S ANY ROOM FOR DOUBT ...

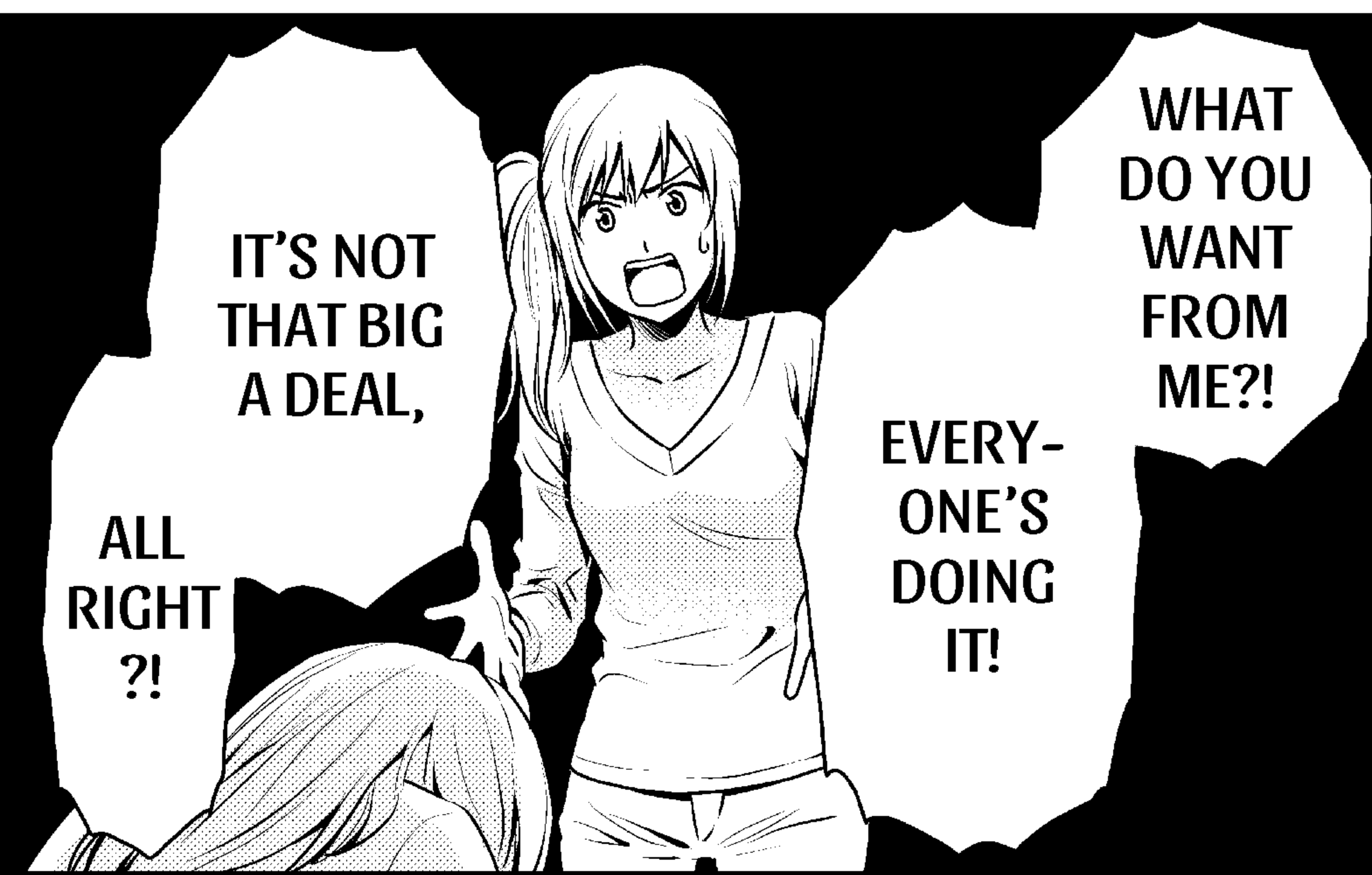
OF COURSE, IF YOU CHOOSE SOMETHING WITH CONVICTION, YOU PROBABLY WON'T REGRET IT.



LIKE I WAS GOING TO MISS A TRAIN OR SOMETHING.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I WAS REALLY IMPATIENT FOR SOME REASON.

IN IT,

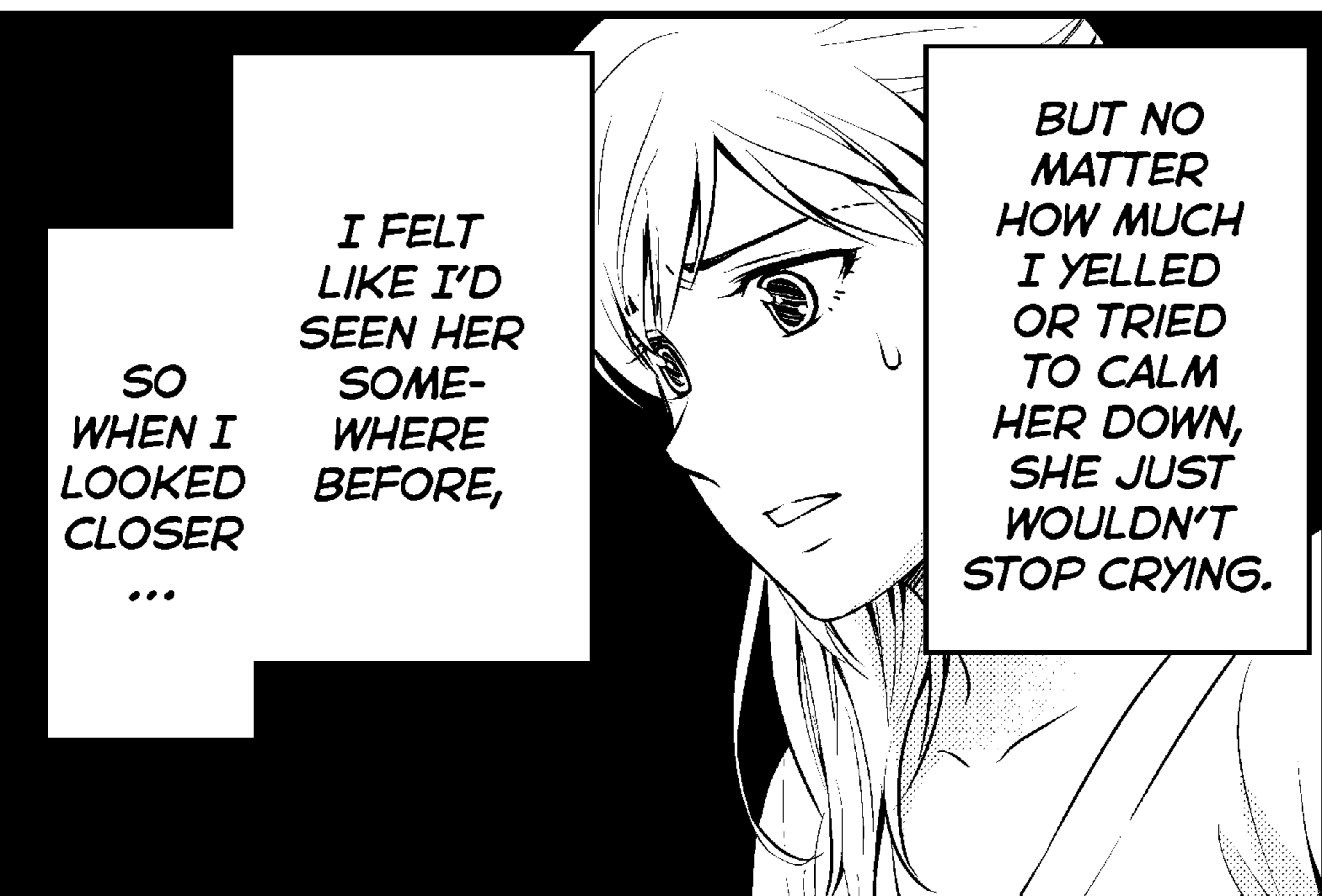


ALL RIGHT ?!

IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL,

EVERY-ONE'S DOING IT!

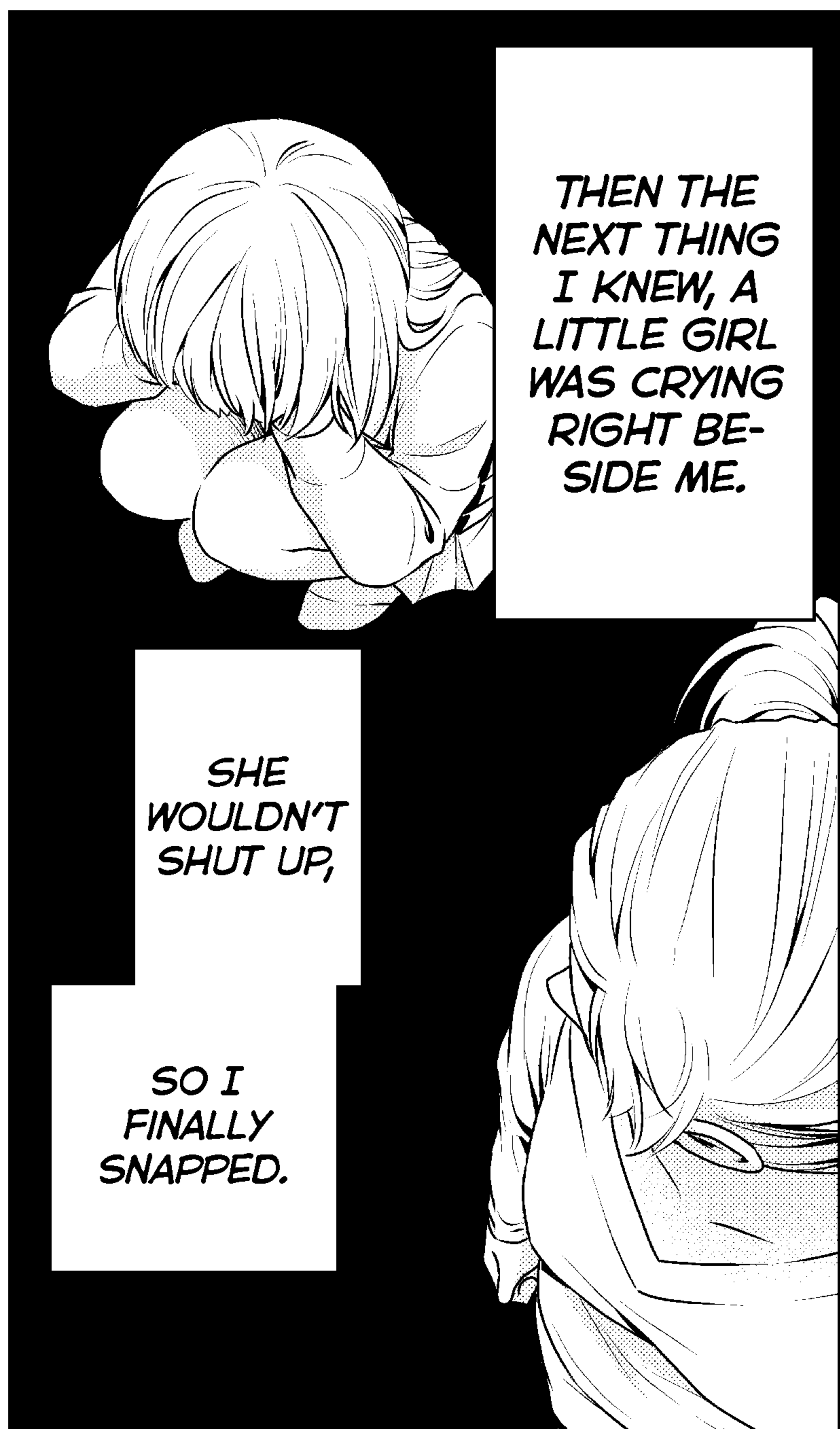
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!



SO WHEN I LOOKED CLOSER ...

I FELT LIKE I'D SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE,

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I YELLED OR TRIED TO CALM HER DOWN, SHE JUST WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.



THEN THE NEXT THING I KNEW, A LITTLE GIRL WAS CRYING RIGHT BESIDE ME.

SHE WOULDN'T SHUT UP,

SO I FINALLY SNAPPED.





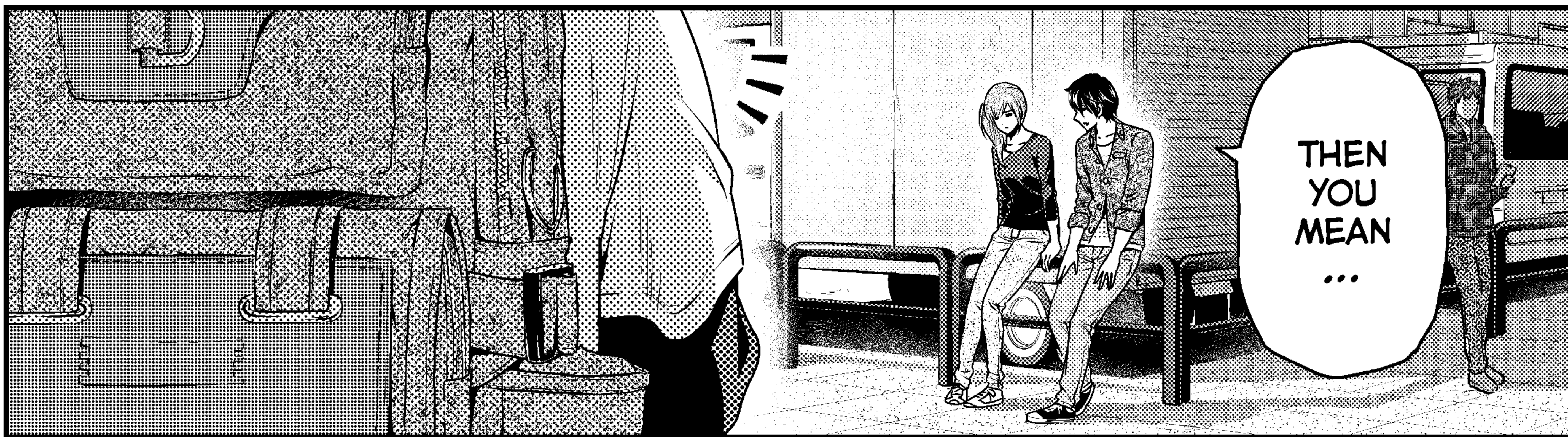
WHEN YOU  
GRABBED  
MY ARM  
AT THE  
STORE...

...IT  
MADE ME  
REMEMBER  
THAT  
DREAM.

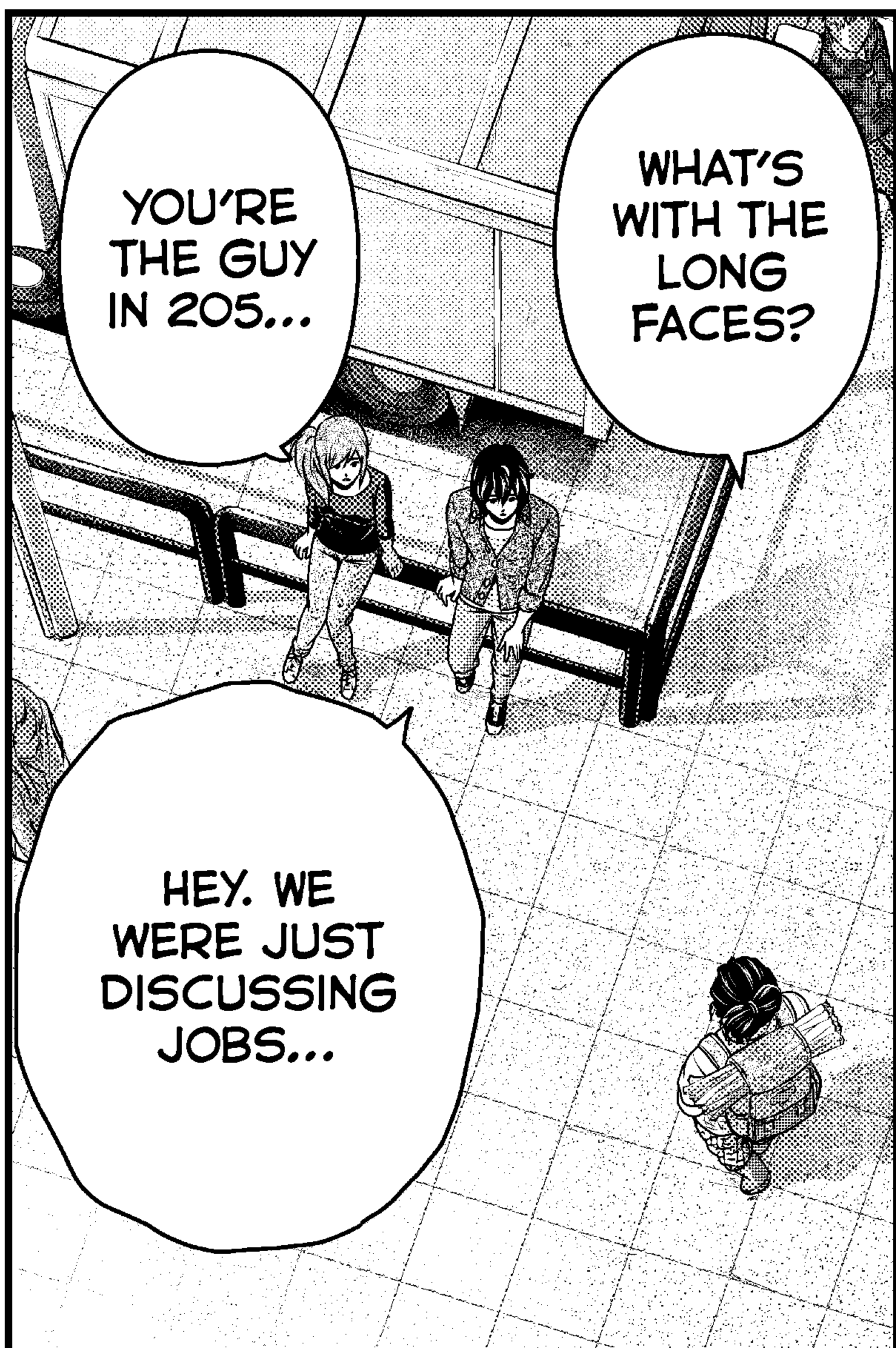
I THOUGHT  
THAT MAYBE  
THAT LITTLE  
GIRL IS HOW I  
REALLY FEEL.



...I  
REALIZED  
THAT SHE  
WAS ME  
WHEN I WAS  
LITTLE.



THEN  
YOU  
MEAN  
...



YOU'RE  
THE GUY  
IN 205...

WHAT'S  
WITH THE  
LONG  
FACES?

HEY. WE  
WERE JUST  
DISCUSSING  
JOBS...



HEY,  
YOU  
TWO.

WHAT'RE  
YOU GUYS  
DOING TO-  
GETHER?





IN RETURN,  
DON'T  
COMPLAIN  
ABOUT MY  
SINGING  
ANYMORE.



I'LL  
LEND  
YOU  
SOME.

WHAT,  
ARE YOU  
SHORT  
ON  
CASH?

HERE.

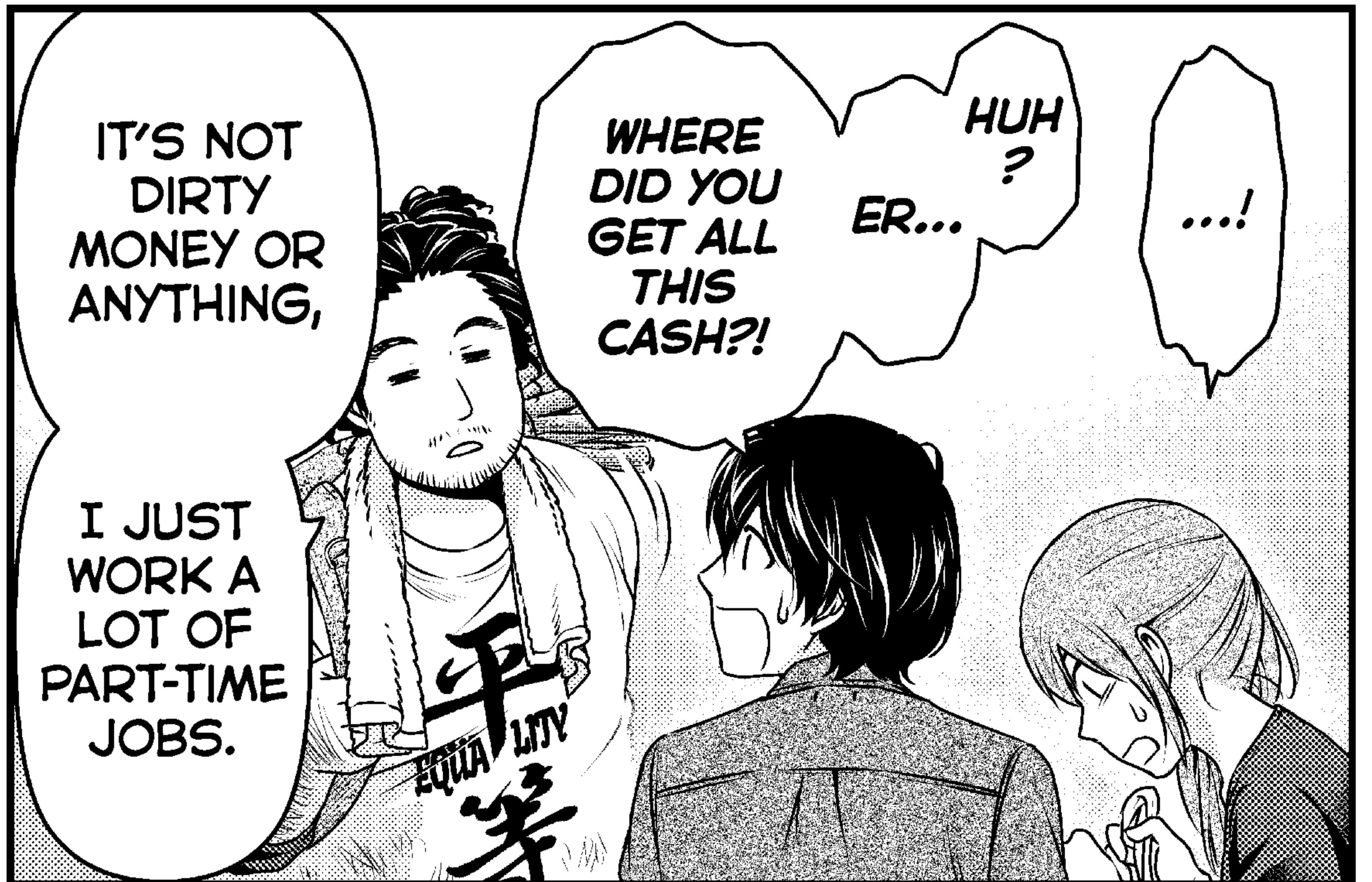


CARE  
FOR  
A  
GREEN  
ONION  
?

I HELPED  
OUT AT A  
FRIEND'S  
FARM IN  
TOCHIGI  
PREFECTURE  
TODAY.

I'M  
GOOD...

I CAN NEVER  
SEEM TO  
TURN DOWN  
MY FRIENDS  
WHEN THEY  
SAY THEY'RE  
SHORT-  
HANDED,  
Y'KNOW?



IT'S NOT  
DIRTY  
MONEY OR  
ANYTHING,

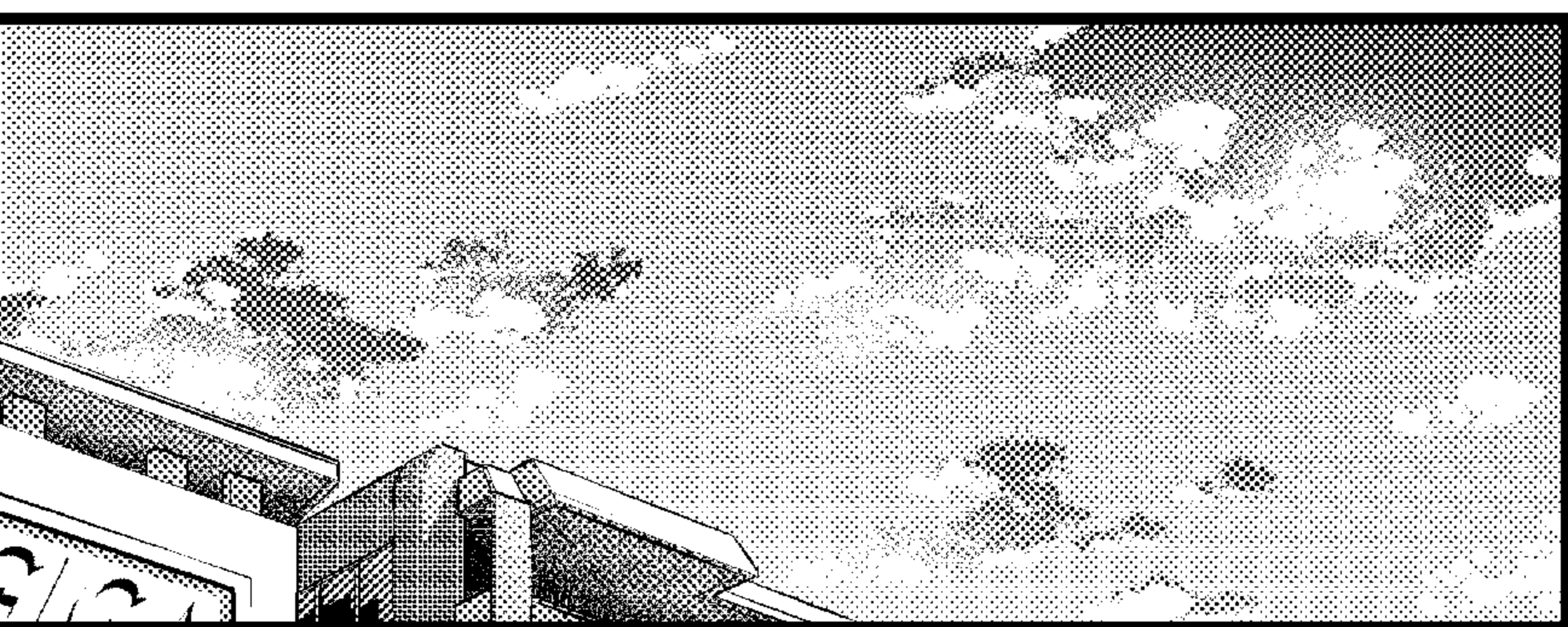
I JUST  
WORK A  
LOT OF  
PART-TIME  
JOBS.

WHERE  
DID YOU  
GET ALL  
THIS  
CASH?!

HUH  
?

ER...

...!



HMM.

PROSTITU-  
TION,

HUH?



ACTU-  
ALLY,

HAZUKI-SAN  
WENT TO A  
PARTY FOR  
HER CLUB  
THE OTHER  
DAY, AND...



TUITION?

SO, WHAT  
DO YOU  
NEED THE  
MONEY  
FOR?

...



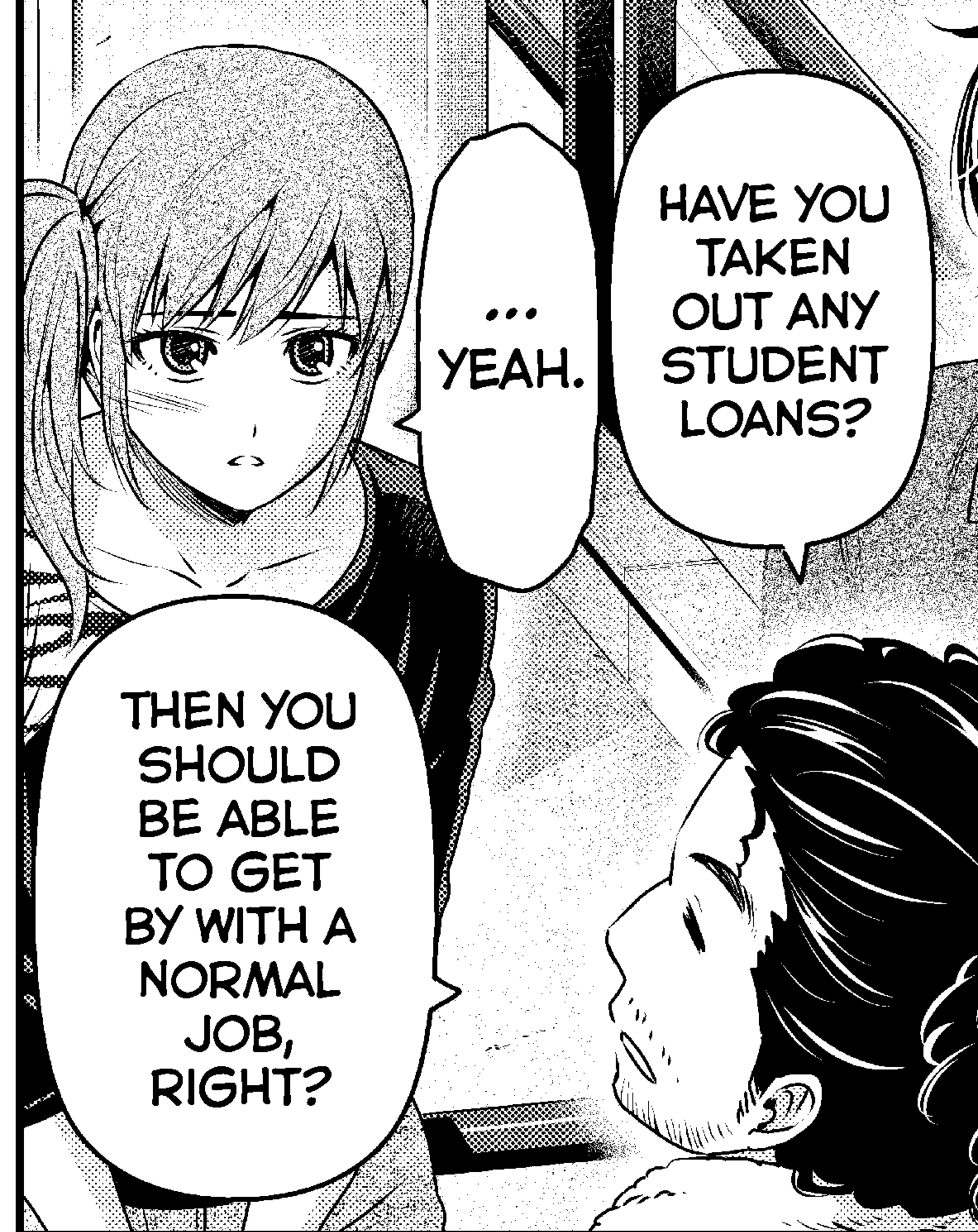


I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM,

BUT THERE'S NO END TO THAT ROAD ONCE YOU'RE ON IT.

"YOU WANT TO MAKE A DECENT LIVING."

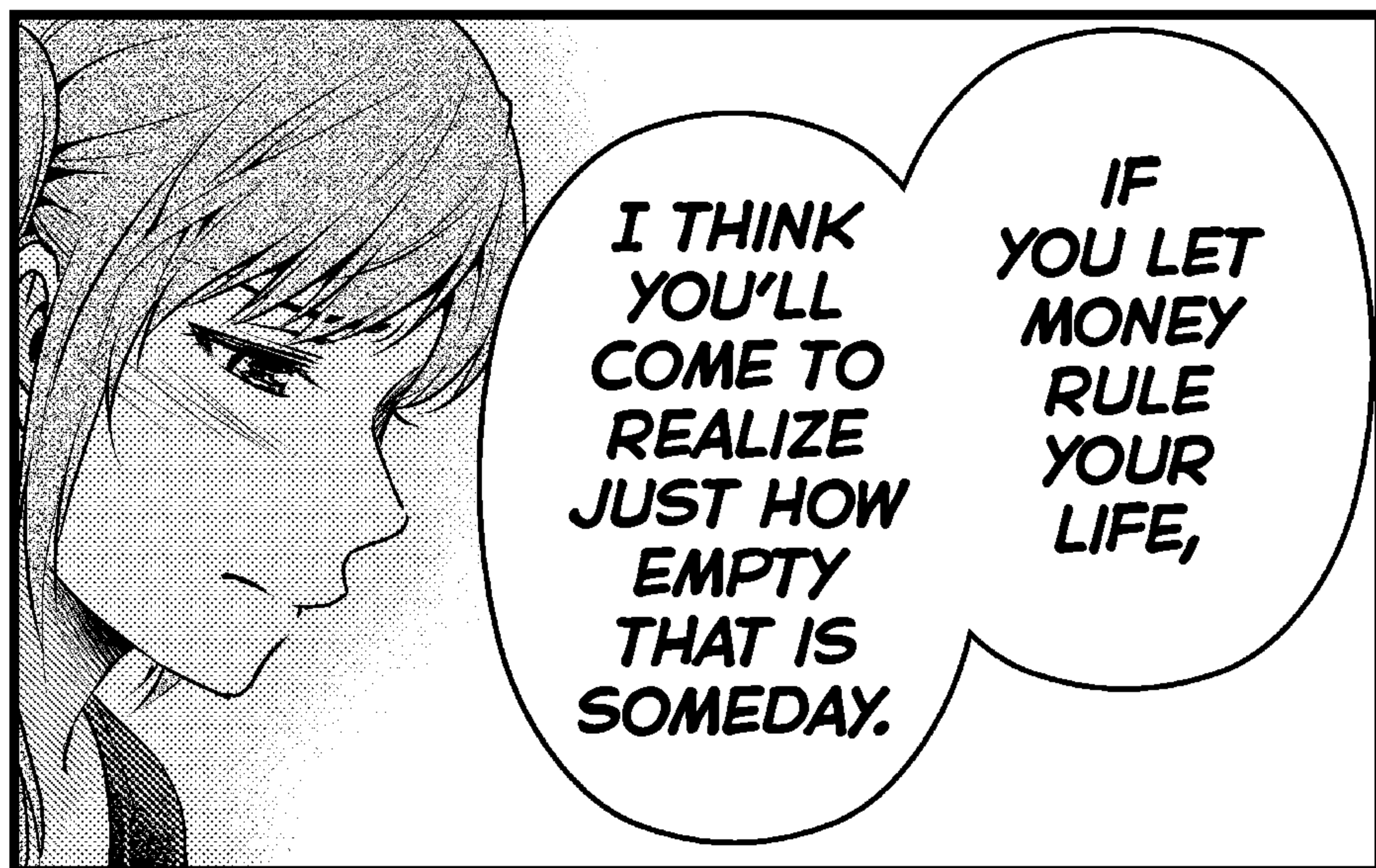
MM-HM.



... YEAH.

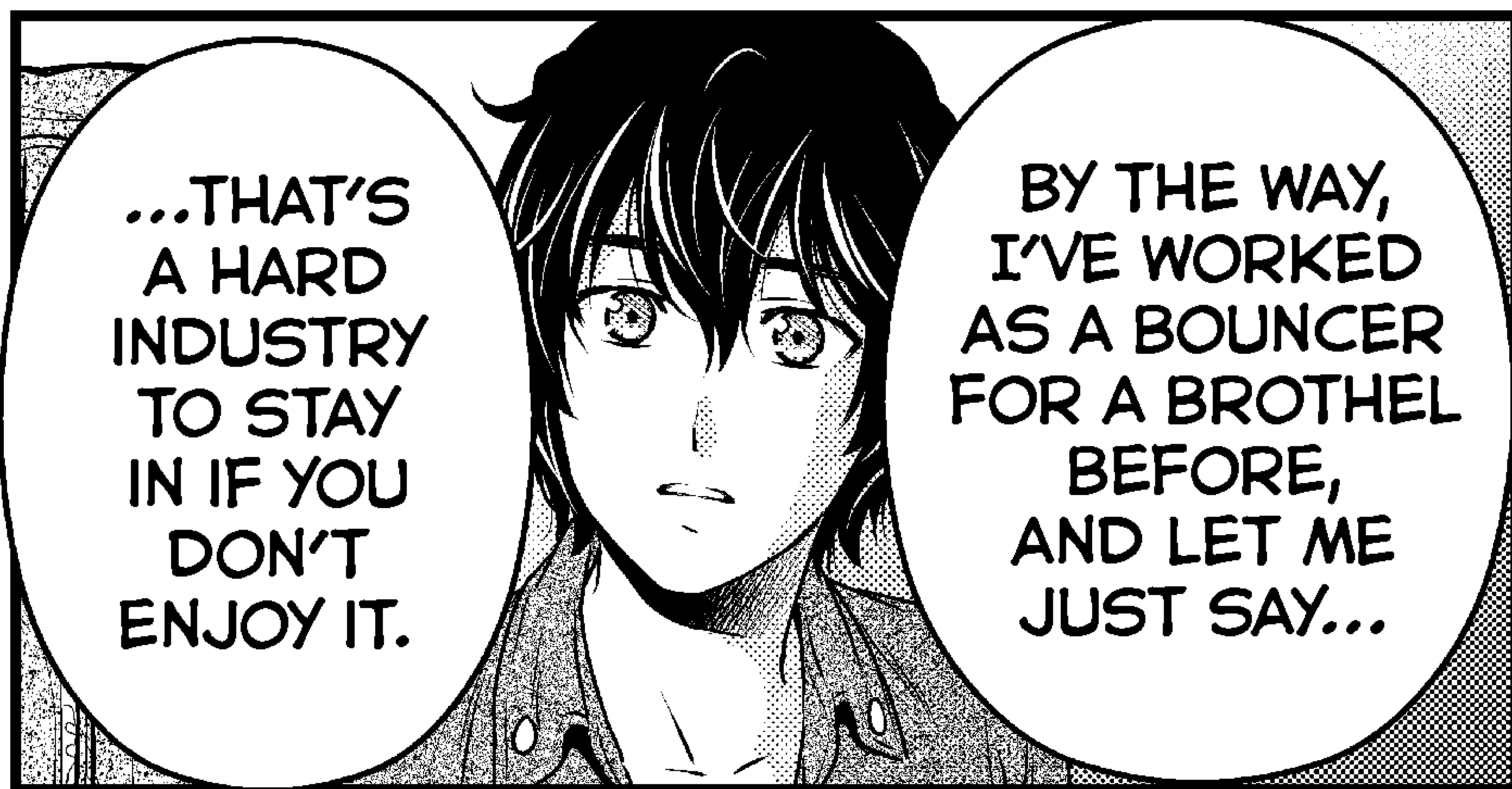
HAVE YOU TAKEN OUT ANY STUDENT LOANS?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BY WITH A NORMAL JOB, RIGHT?



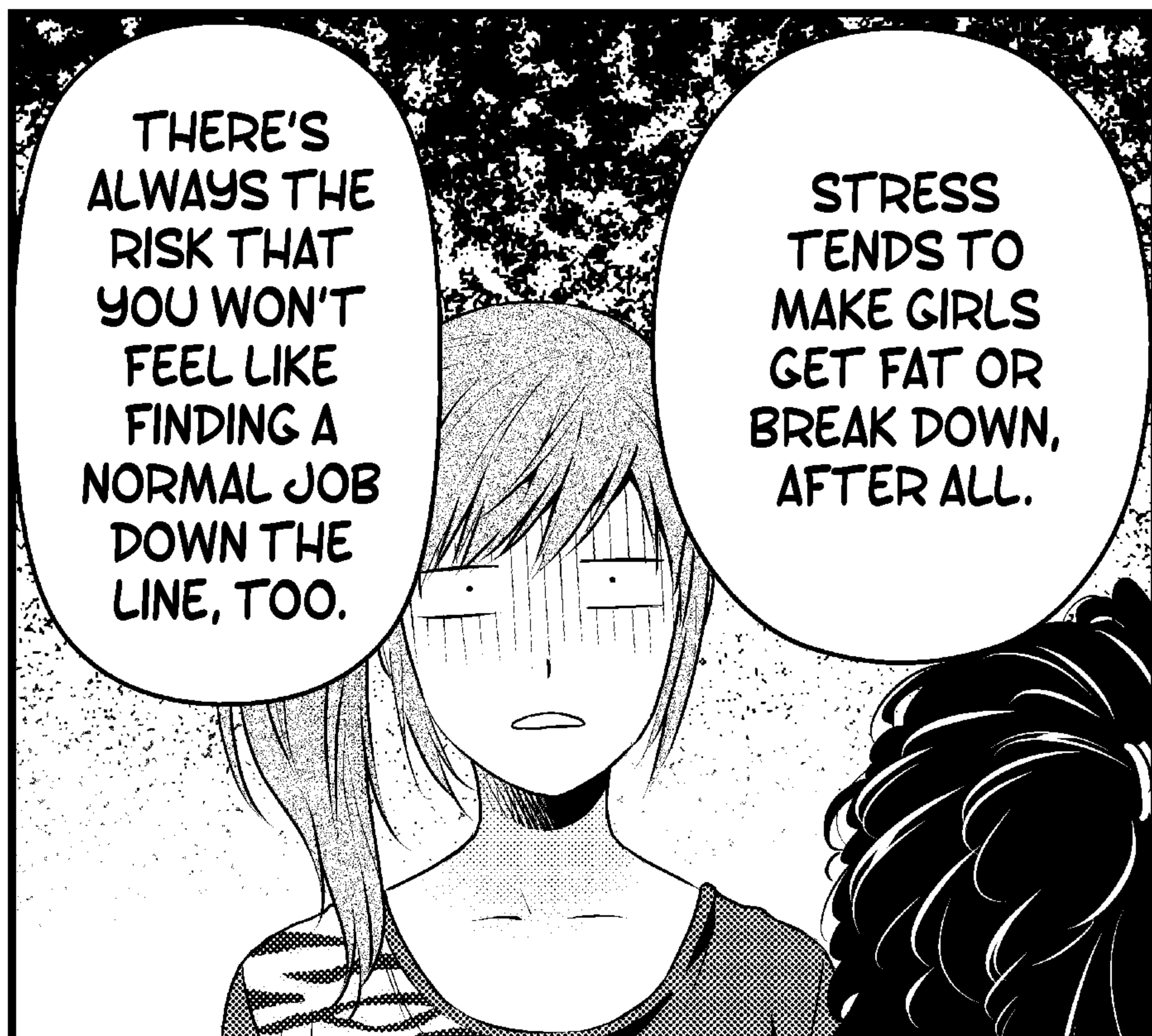
I THINK YOU'LL COME TO REALIZE JUST HOW EMPTY THAT IS SOMEDAY.

IF YOU LET MONEY RULE YOUR LIFE,



...THAT'S A HARD INDUSTRY TO STAY IN IF YOU DON'T ENJOY IT.

BY THE WAY, I'VE WORKED AS A BOUNCER FOR A BROTHEL BEFORE, AND LET ME JUST SAY...



THERE'S ALWAYS THE RISK THAT YOU WON'T FEEL LIKE FINDING A NORMAL JOB DOWN THE LINE, TOO.

STRESS TENDS TO MAKE GIRLS GET FAT OR BREAK DOWN, AFTER ALL.



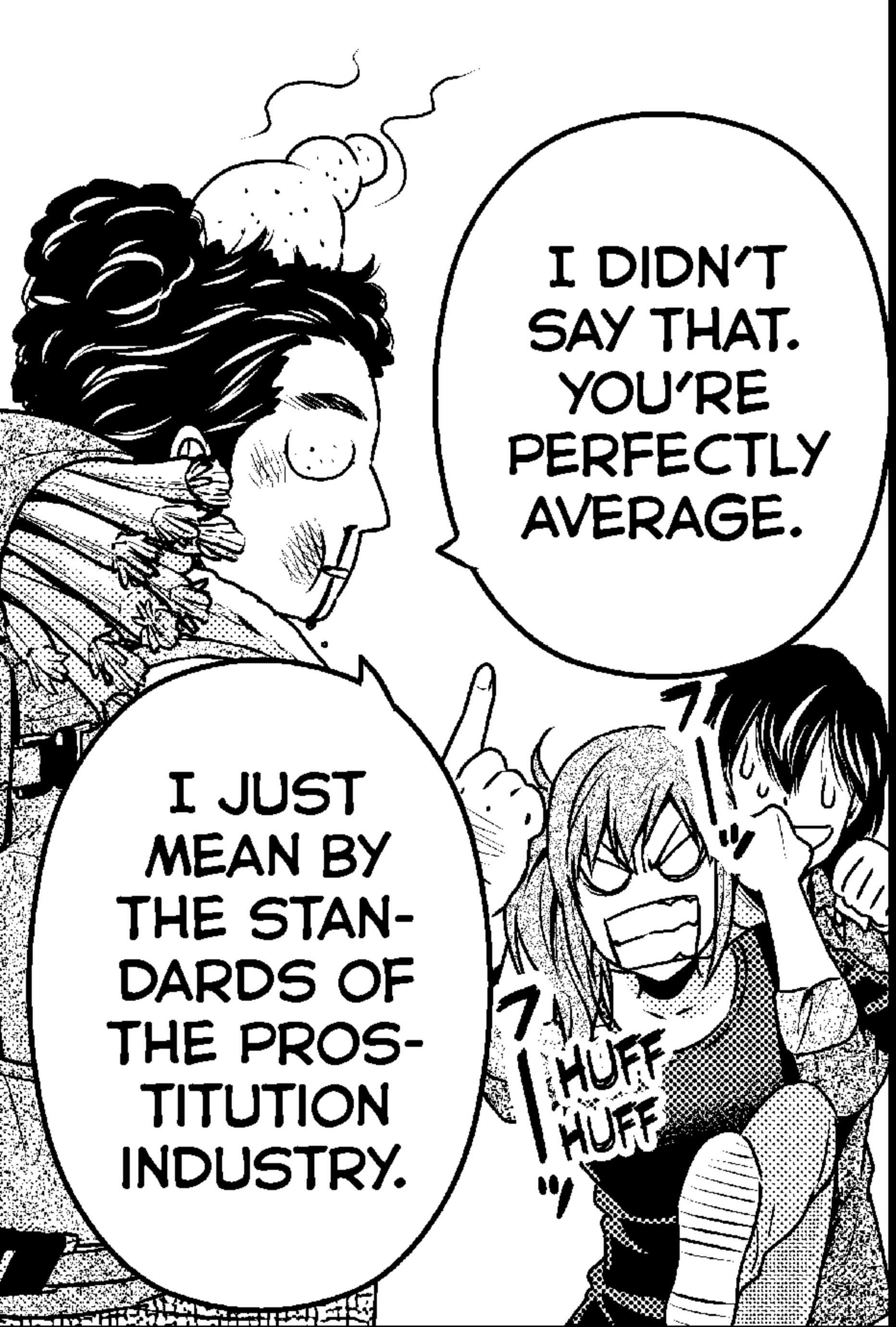
MAKE A MILLION, AND YOU'LL WANT TWO MILLION. IT JUST GOES ON AND ON.

MAKE 100,000, AND YOU'LL WANT 200,000.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AMBITION, OF COURSE,

BUT YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET GREED MAKE YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.





I DIDN'T SAY THAT. YOU'RE PERFECTLY AVERAGE.

I JUST MEAN BY THE STANDARDS OF THE PROSTITUTION INDUSTRY.

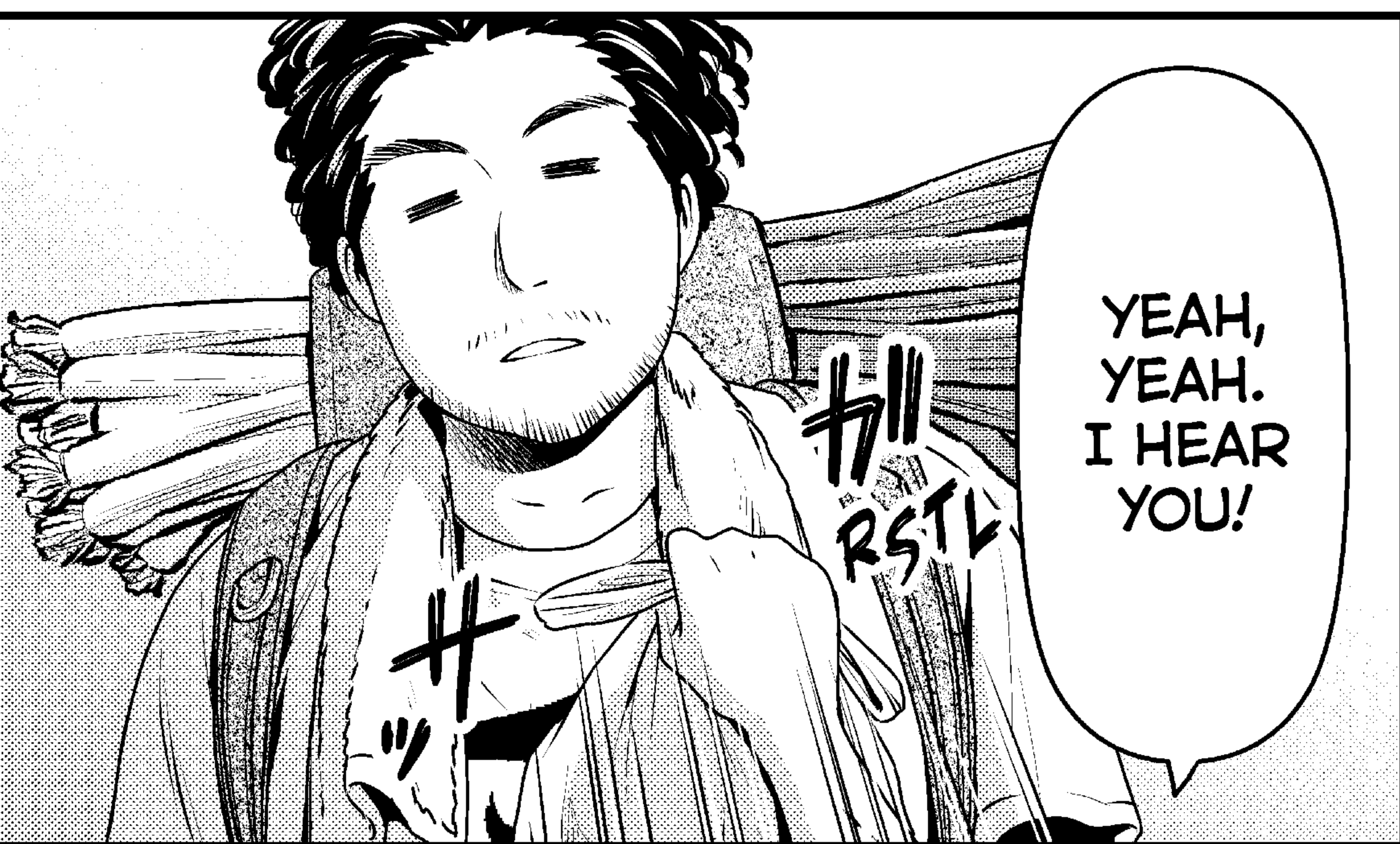


ARE YOU SAYING I'M UGLY?! HUH?!

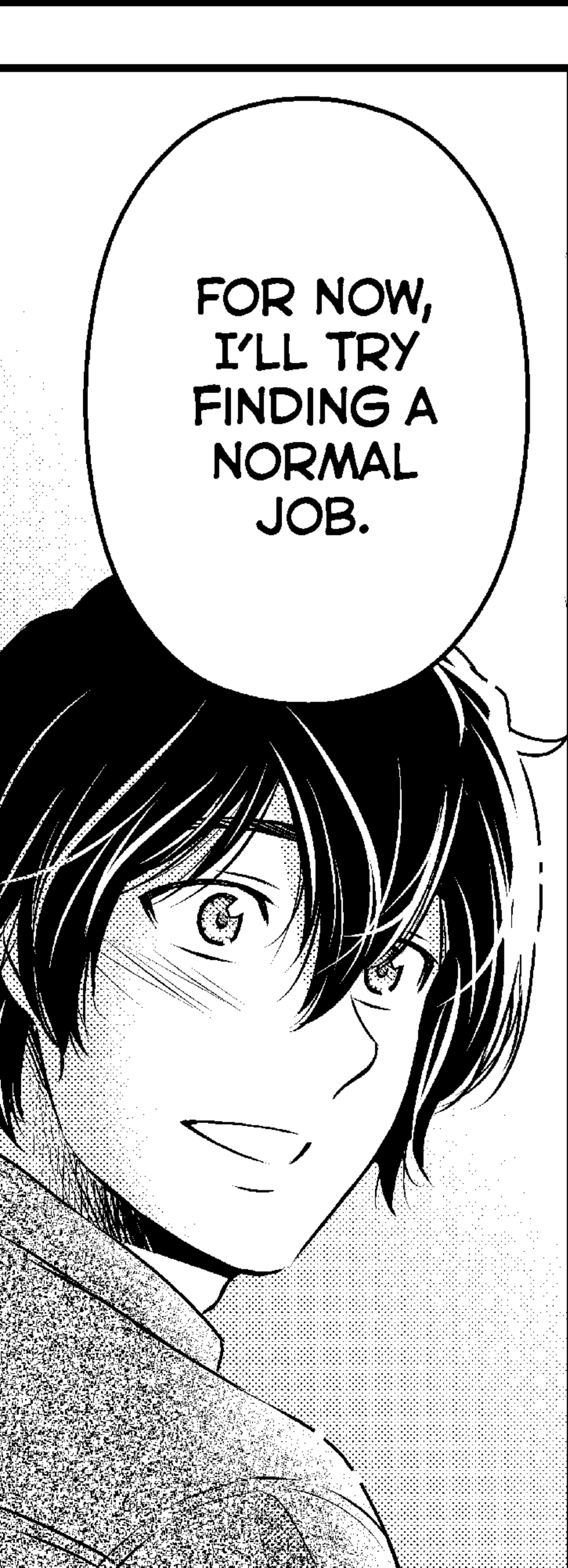


SO YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.

FURTHERMORE, THE STANDARDS FOR ESCORTS HAVE BEEN GOING UP IN RECENT YEARS,



YEAH, YEAH. I HEAR YOU!



FOR NOW, I'LL TRY FINDING A NORMAL JOB.



ALL THIS ARM-TWISTING HAS TOTALLY KILLED MY MOTIVATION.

TO BE HONEST, MY RESOLVE WAS PRETTY HALF-ASSED.

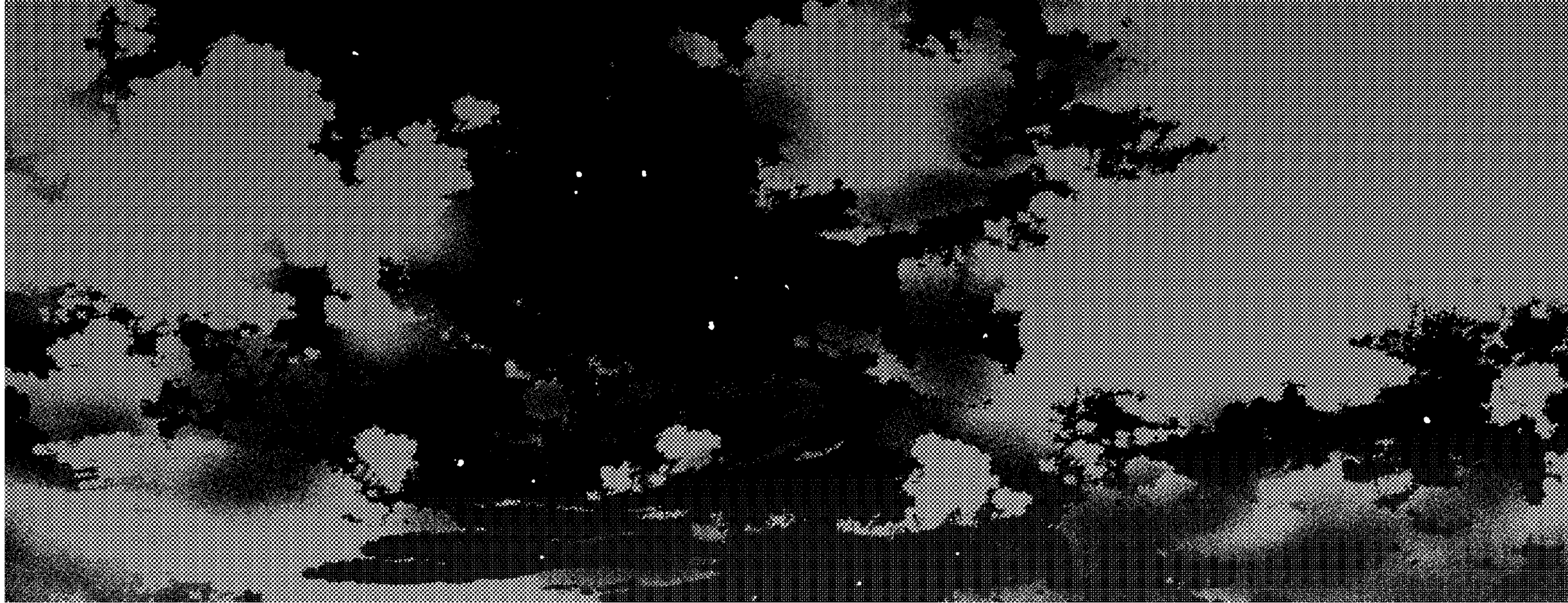


YEAH. I STILL WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR SHITTY SINGING, ANYWAY.

YOU SURE?

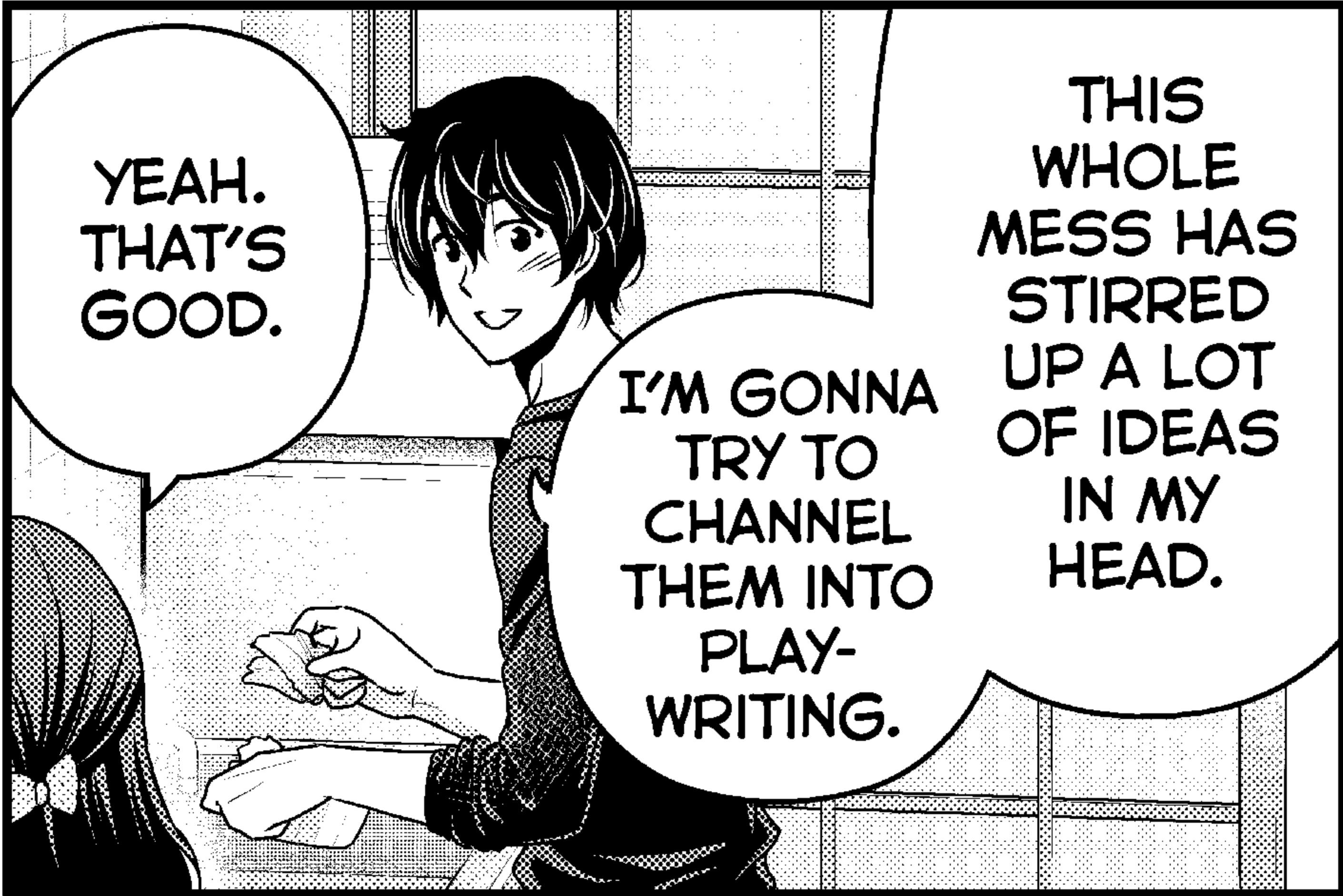
WHA-!





SO, SHE  
CAME  
AROUND  
IN THE  
END?

HMM.



YEAH.  
THAT'S  
GOOD.

I'M GONNA  
TRY TO  
CHANNEL  
THEM INTO  
PLAY-  
WRITING.

THIS  
WHOLE  
MESS HAS  
STIRRED  
UP A LOT  
OF IDEAS  
IN MY  
HEAD.



YEAH.

SHE'S  
LOOKING  
HARD FOR  
A PART-TIME  
JOB NOW.

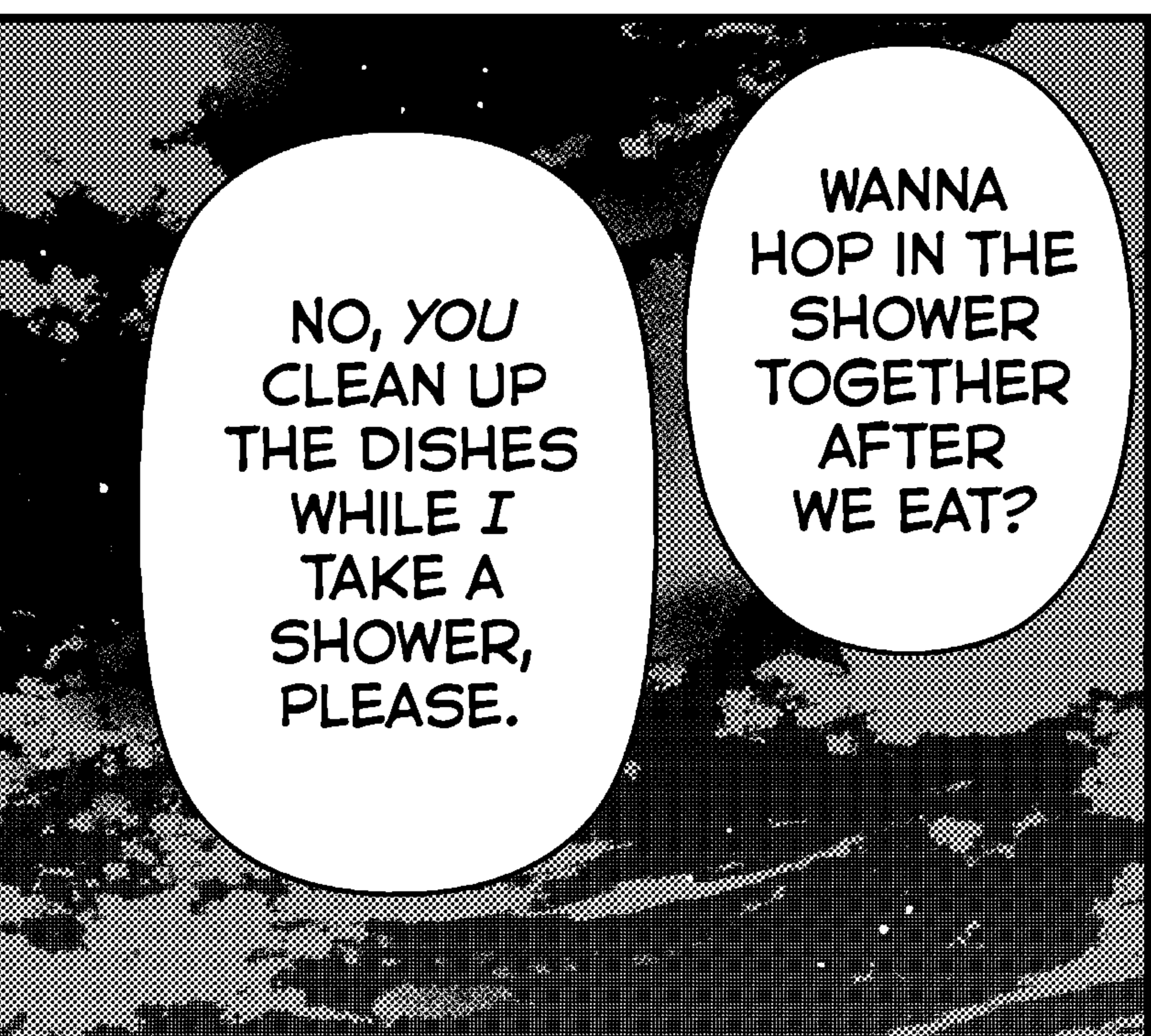


ERR  
...  
I JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO SEE HER  
WALK OUT  
OF WHAT  
LOOKED  
LIKE ONE?

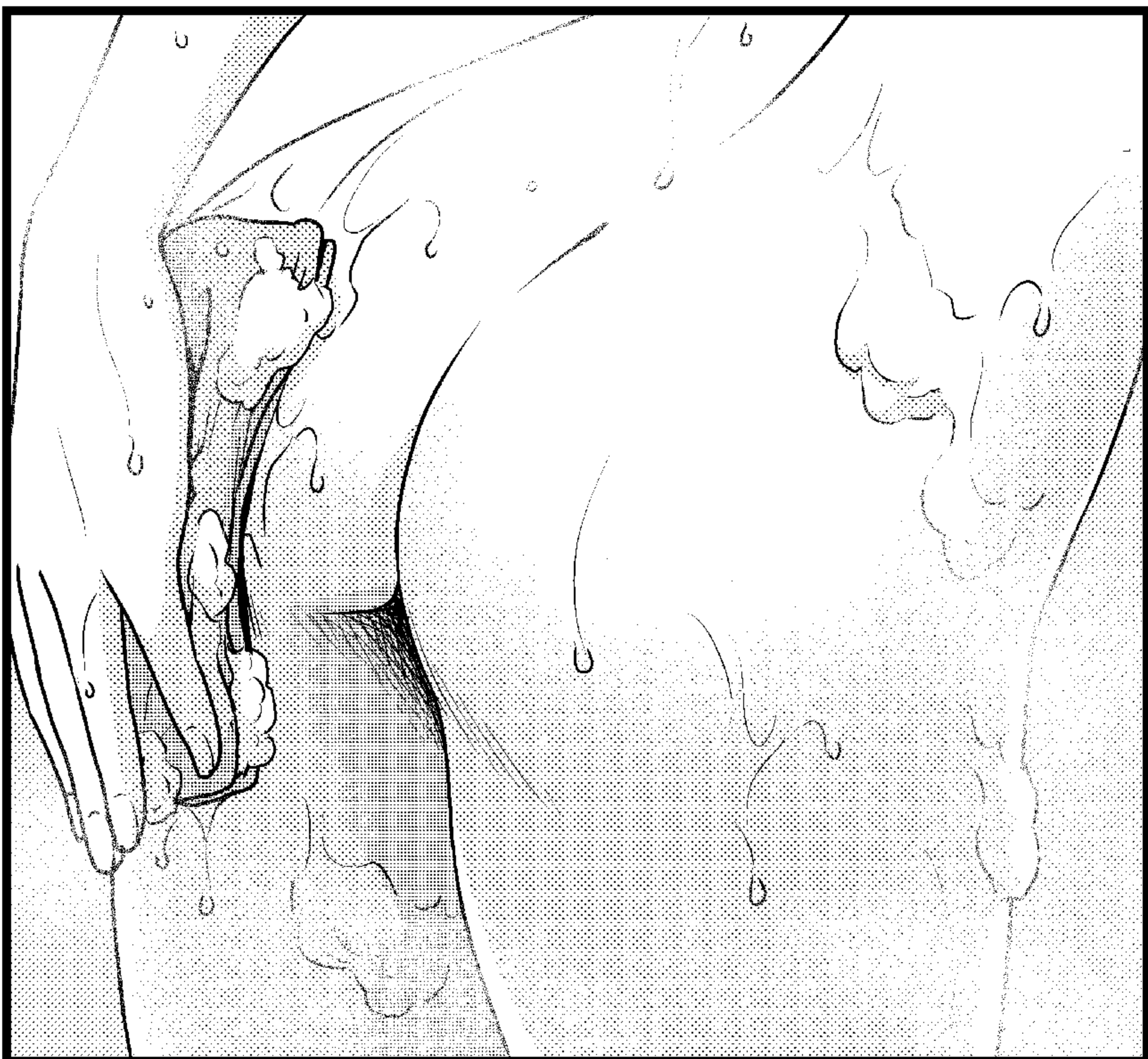
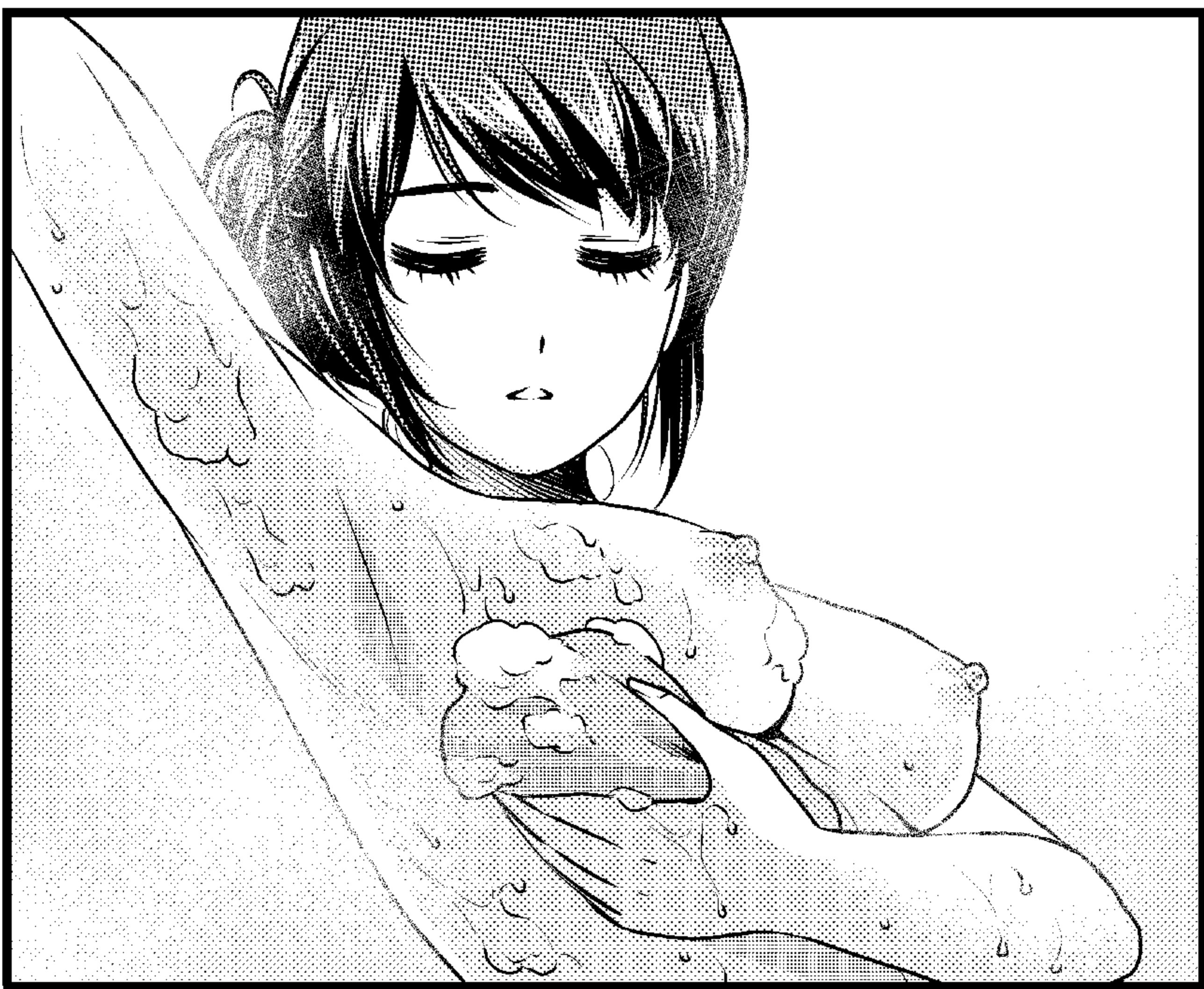
BUT HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW SHE  
WAS GOING  
TO WORK AT  
A BROTHEL,  
ANYWAY?

HMM.













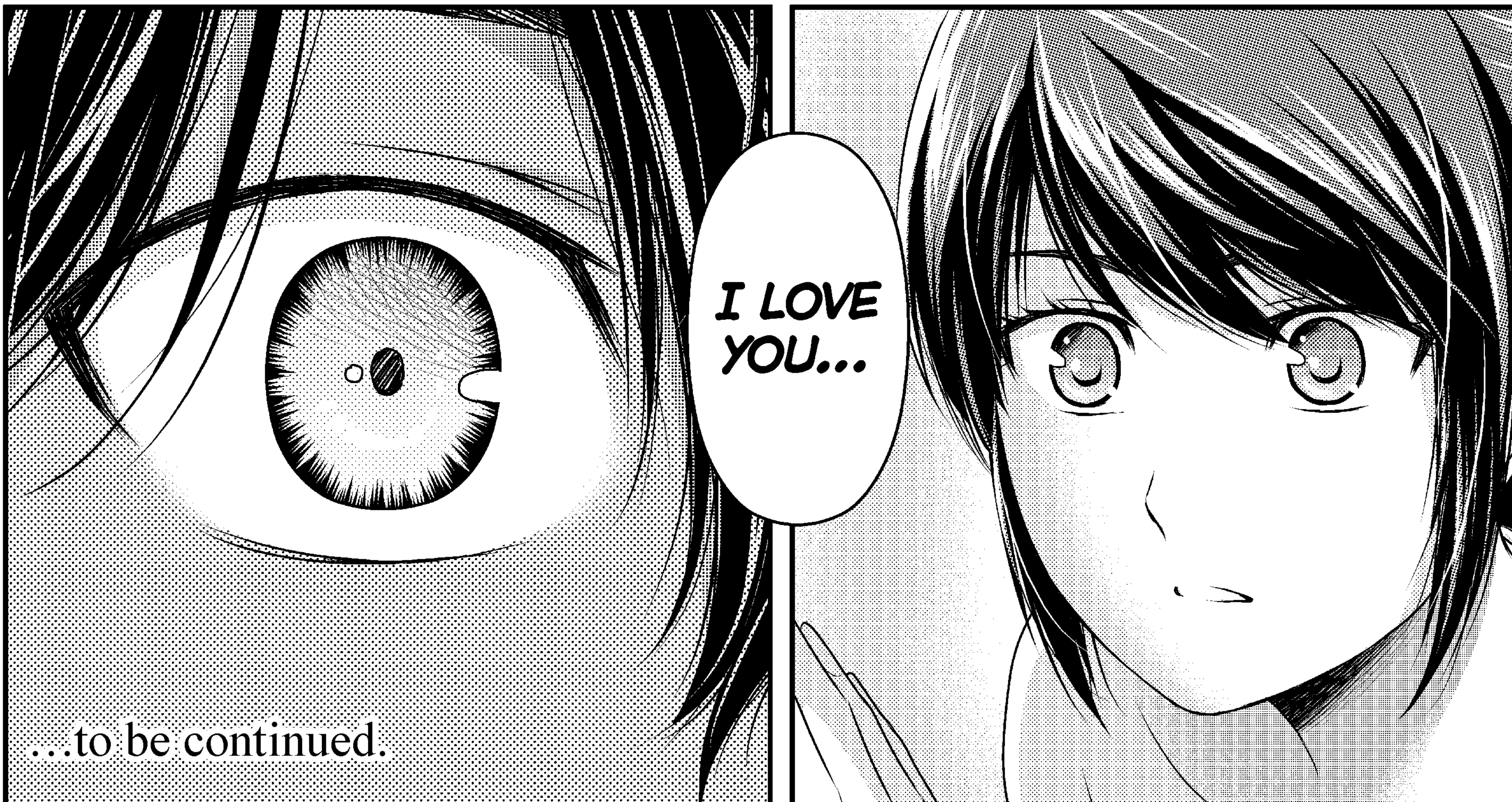












...to be continued.



Preview

I  
WANT  
...

# Hina's confession

rocks  
them  
both  
to the  
core.

...TO SORT  
OUT MY  
FEELINGS.

AND AT HIS  
FIRST CLUB  
TRAINING CAMP,  
THE LEADING  
ACTRESS OF  
NATSUO'S PLAY  
BACKS OUT OF  
THE ROLE?!

...WAS  
YOUR  
HAIRPIN,  
WASN'T  
IT?

THIS  
...

BUT  
I'M  
OUT.

SOR-  
RY,

...  
NOT TO  
LIS-  
TEN ?

UM.  
CAN I  
CHOOSE  
...

AT LAST,  
HINA  
FINDS OUT  
ABOUT  
THEIR  
RELATION-  
SHIP...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 16!



# TRANSLATION NOTES



## SECOND UNIFORM BUTTON, PAGE 25

In Japan, when boys graduate from middle and high school, it's traditional for them to give the second button of their uniform jacket to the girl they like in place of a confession. There are many theories about the origin of this custom, a common one being that the second button is the one closest to the heart and contains all of the feelings that have built up over their three years of school. It's also common for girls to confess by asking the boy they like for their button.



## **Domestic Girlfriend 15**

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